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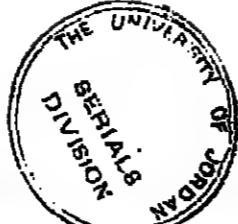
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ARAB TIMES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1990/RAJAB 14, 1410 AH

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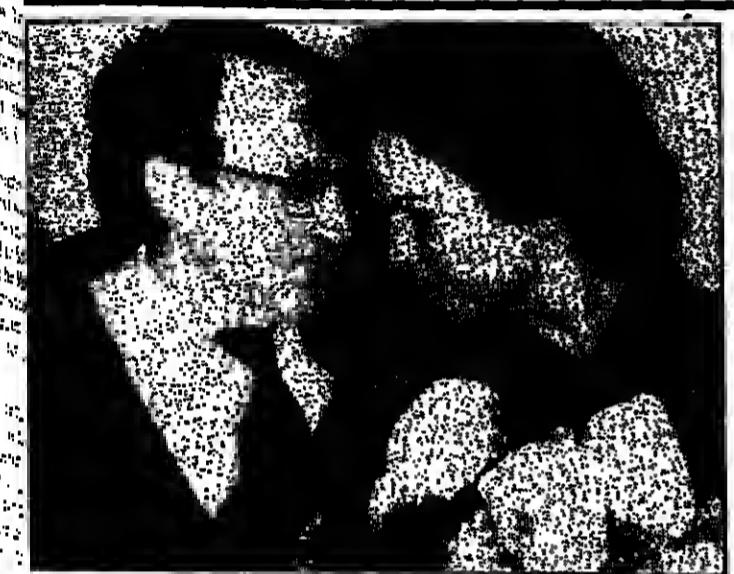
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Dialogue to avert crisis: Premier

Sheikh Saad to meet more deputies today

KUWAIT, Feb 9: HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah said today his recent meeting with a group of former Parliament deputies "stemmed from the firm belief of the political leadership in national dialogue."

The Crown Prince said in a statement to Kuna he sensed during the meeting "a keen interest in averting the repetition of such practices and crises which caused the former Kuwaiti



Pair'estroika

Suzan Eisenhower, 38, grand-daughter of the late US president and Soviet scientist Roald Sagdeev, 57, exchange a few words after getting married yesterday at Moscow's Griboyedovsk Wedding Palace. (Reuter wirephoto)

DEMOCRATIC MATCH

Show the light, have sex: An Egyptian newspaper for devout Muslims advised readers on Thursday that a wife who declines to have sex with her husband will be cursed by God's angels until she repents, and a husband will be cursed if he fails to beat up his spouse to make her see the light.

Sheikh Ibrahim El Wafaa, a religious advisor to the Cairo weekly Alawia Al Islami, in reply to a letter from an anxious reader Mohammed El Metwali, said divorce in a case where a wife refuses to have sex with her husband was a last resort.

"A wife who refuses sex with her husband will be cursed by the angels of God until she repents," Sheikh Ibrahim advised his worried reader.

"If she insists on refusing to have sex with her husband, he can divorce her, but only after advising her, leaving her to sleep alone, and beating her up lightly," the scholar said.

Sheikh Ibrahim suggested that the husband ask for two witnesses, preferably one from his wife's side of the family and one from his side, to judge her behaviour after he has beaten her up.

"If all the proofs fit, then he is allowed to divorce her," he said. (UPI)

Europeans heed US warning: European governments are bracing for a possible terrorist attack this weekend after Thursday's warning from the United States.

The United States said it feared terrorists might attack US targets in Western Europe to coincide with Sunday's 11th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran. (Reuters)

Shannon shoots self: Rock 'n' roll singer Del Shannon, who topped the charts in the early 1960s with "Runaway," apparently shot and killed himself in his home, authorities said on Friday. Shannon, 56, was found late Thursday in the den of his house with an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, deputy Chris Wahla said. A .22-caliber rifle was discovered on the floor next to Shannon.

Czech-Israeli ties resumed: Czechoslovakia's new government distanced itself from the policies of its communist predecessors on Friday, renewing diplomatic ties with Israel it broke in deference to Moscow 23 years ago.

Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier and his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens signed an accord in a tapestry-lined room of Prague's Cerin Palace to restore full links between the two states. (Reuters)

(See Page 11)

Guessing Gorby game

MOSCOW, Feb 9, (UPI): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev left it open today whether he would run as a communist in the first multiparty Presidential elections.

Before meeting Secretary of State James Baker today, an ebullient Gorbachev was asked by reporters about the landmark reform passed by this week's three-day Communist Party plenum.

The plenum called for a multiparty system with a presidential system, and Gorbachev was asked whether he would contend for election as a communist in such elections.

"Let us wait and see," said a smiling Gorbachev, who is now both the president and head of the Soviet Communist Party of some 18 million members.

Gorbachev, the Communist Party general secretary, said he began mapping the political reform process as soon as he came to power in March 1985.

Another Manila coup plot officer captured

MANILA, Feb 9, (Reuters): Philippine security forces today captured a renegade army major who led an attack on Manila's domestic airport during last December's failed coup attempt.

But other rebels issued a defiant statement saying: "For every single one of us arrested, tens and hundreds of new comrades are born."

Disaffected soldiers have vowed to launch another coup to overthrow President Corazon Aquino, whom they accuse of allowing rampant corruption and of weak leadership.

Major-General Ramon Montano, chief of the paramilitary Philippine constabulary, said Major Jose Camus was seized shortly after midnight in a restaurant in

parliamentary experiment to stumble and fail."

Sheikh Saad, referring to the audience he granted last Wednesday to 29 former parliamentarians, said the meeting was part of his dialogue with a cross-section of Kuwaiti citizens "for consultations on all that serves the country and citizens," as instructed by HH the Amir.

He said the "positive" meeting on Wednesday was characterised by "an air of fraternity, candour and clarity."

He pointed out that discussion centred on the need for reaching "definite, practical formula that would ensure avoidance of previous errors and negatives that had led to the dissolution of the National Assembly in 1976 and 1986."

The Crown Prince stressed he will continue to have such meetings with citizens and urged Kuwaitis to join hands in serving the country's best interests, as the goal that comes ahead of any other consideration, in accordance with the directions of the Amiri.

Hussein Salameh said: It has been learnt that the Crown Prince will today receive another group of former National Assembly deputies.

Among the former deputies will be Falah Al Hajraf, Sayah Abu Shaha, Al Noun and Munaizel Al Enesi.

The parliamentarians whom the Premier will meet today are different from those he met with on Wednesday.

Sayah Abu Shaha, a former deputy and one of those who will meet Sheikh Saad today, told the Arab Times that the meeting is a qualitative transfer in the ongoing process of the dialogue being conducted by the Kuwaiti leadership.

He said that all parties in the dialogue should meet on the main goal which is popular participation. He stressed that one differs on this goal, but the only difference is the way by which the popular participation can be achieved.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations, said the factions blamed each other for provoking the inter-communal skirmishes across confrontation lines dividing East Beirut.

The ceasefire violations forced Maronite Catholic clerics to cancel services on the occasions of St Maron's Day. He is the patron saint of the sect.

Mass was held instead in the studios of the Voice of Lebanon radio station based in East Beirut's Ashrafiyah neighbourhood, by Archbishop Khalil Abi Nader, an aide to Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir and broadcast live by the radio.

The French embassy, based in East Beirut, issued a statement saying French Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner was to leave Lebanon late today "to pursue efforts aimed at stabilising a ceasefire in Lebanon."

A French source, who refused to be further identified, said Kouchner, who had helped set up the evacuation of 16 wounded victims from East Beirut for treatment in France, was "not optimistic about the future of the ceasefire."

The police spokesman also said the combatants "do not seem to be preparing themselves to withdraw."

"The tanks are still in combat formation. Fighters are still in firing positions. There are no indications that a truce is in the making," he said.

Palestinian Fatah leader, who had launched repeated efforts to halt the bloodshed, was expected to leave Beirut late today.

A security committee grouping representatives of Georges and Aoun managed to convene at 4 pm (1400 GMT), four hours behind schedule, at the seat of State in Beirut, north of Beirut.

The delay was caused by a half dozen shells that fell near the boat which was to carry the militia's representatives from the seaside war council headquarters at East Beirut's Karantina district to Jounieh, north of Beirut.

The source of the fire was not disclosed. However, the spokesman said the vessel sailed after contacts with Aoun's command.

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INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1990

Call for peaceful solution in Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

He said the OIC declared its "full solidarity with the Islamic republic of Pakistan and our support for the struggle waged by the Muslim Kashmir people for self-determination."

A Pakistan-based Afghan rebel government yesterday announced support for the current violent Muslim campaign for independence in Indian-ruled Kashmir.

"We demand that the Kash-

mari Muslims in the occupied territory be conceded their right of self-determination," Prime Minister Abourab Rasul Sayyaf said in a statement.

An opposition leader in Pakistani-administered Kashmir appealed to Britain today to help stop fighting between Muslims and security forces in the Indian-ruled part of the territory.

"I think that Britain should come forward to solve it," Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, president of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Muslim conference, told reporters.

"Britain basically wants peace ... there will be no peace until the people of Kashmir get the right of self-determination," added Chaudhry, who is deputy opposition leader in the state legislature.

Tens of thousands of Muslims worshippers were forced to stay inside today after two bombs exploded in Srinagar, the centre of Kashmiri separatist rebellion, and authorities tightened

security.

No one was hurt or killed in the blasts, but the resulting ban on public assembly kept Muslims from their Friday prayer services.

"I call on all authorities in New Delhi and Srinagar to restore all religious and political rights to the people of Kashmir," said Maulvi Mirwaiz Farooq, the head priest of the region's main mosque and a political opposition party leader.

67 killed in Karachi violence

(Continued from Page 1)

An eight-year-old girl was shot by gunmen firing from a speeding car in north Karachi, police added.

The combined opposition parties parliamentary coalition, of which MQM is a partner, called today for a protest day on Feb 16 when it said rallies and special prayers at special Muslim congregations would be held.

"The government which massacres its own people has no right to rule the country even for a single day," said a resolution passed by top opposition figures at a meeting in Islamabad.

Government spokesman blamed the MQM for most casualties.

Troops Thursday enforced indefinite curfews in 17 areas of the city to prevent more fighting, officials said. They said the soldiers shot and killed two people, including a woman, violating the restrictions.

They said one person was killed and four wounded in fighting between MQM and PPP workers during a funeral procession for one of those who died on Wednesday. Snipers wounded six other people and militants set fire to a flour market in one area under curfew.

Karachi was otherwise largely deserted with very few shops open in areas not under curfew. Almost all government offices remained closed and most public and private vehicles stayed off the roads.

A government spokesman in Islamabad said 42 people were shot and killed on Wednesday, including a soldier and four police officers, hospital sources said more than 115 were wounded by bullets, stabbings or fire.

Both sides blame the other for the violence. The MQM has charged the trouble was sparked by gunfire from security forces, while the government said MQM workers fired indiscriminately to create chaos in the city.

Meanwhile, MQM has accused Benazir Bhutto's followers using kneecapping against abducted opponents taking a leaf from the book of the Irish Republican Army.

"Our six workers were shot in the knee," said a MQM spokesman.

"One worker's knee was drilled by an electric drill machine," he said. Pakistani People's party denies the charge.

The MQM spokesman named six activists whom he said were released by abductors after having been subjected to kneecapping.

"It is inhuman, it is barbaric," he said about the method he said the IRA, fighting against British rule in Northern Ireland, was using as a form of punishment.

The PPP says 10 of its workers were kidnapped by MQM activists in the past 15 days.



Satellite back

The Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF) sits in the background as the media crowd in the foreground to take photos of the satellite at the Kennedy Space Centre on Feb 7. The satellite was brought back from space aboard the space shuttle Columbia. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Let kids find it themselves'

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, Feb 9. (AP): Students, not scientists, will harvest whatever discoveries are yielded by 12.5 million tomato seeds the space Shuttle Columbia returned to earth aboard the rescued Long Duration Exposure Facility satellite.

The seeds contributed by Park Seed Co.

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Study on swans' migratory habits

TOKYO, Feb 9. (AP): The mystery of where swans go on their migratory flights may be unravelled with the development of a tiny transmitter to be attached to the birds so they can be tracked by a satellite.

The Wild Bird Society of Japan and the telecommunications utility Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. jointly announced that a transmitter weighing 1.4 ounces (40 grams) will be attached to swans.

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INTERNATIONAL

Paula jumps to top of pops

NEW YORK, Feb 9. (AP): Paula Abdul took a big step to hit the top of the single pop record charts in the United States with her new hit "Opposites Attract." The disc was in eighth place a week ago.

Michael Bolton's "How Am I Supposed To Live Without You" stayed on for the third straight week in the number two slot on the Cash Box magazine chart. Rod Stewart's "Downtown Train" slipped from number one to third.

The only newcomer to the 10 list was "Janie's Got A Gun" by Arrowheads up from 12th to 5th.

Restless Heart made it number one on the Cash Box magazine country-and-western singles chart with "Fast Moving Train." Alabama's "Southern Star" was second, and George Strait's "Overnight Success" was third.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

(1) Opposites Attract — Paula Abdul (Virgin).

(2) How Am I Supposed To Live Without You — Michael Bolton (Atlantic).

(3) Downtown Train — Rod Stewart (Warner Brothers).

(4) Turn To Make It Right — Seduction (Vendetta/A and M).

(5) (12) Janie's Got A Gun — Arrowheads (Geffco).

(6) (7) Fire Fallin' — Tom Petty (MCA).

(7) (10) I Remember You — Skid Row (Atlantic).

(8) (6) Just Between You and Me — Lon Gramm (Atlantic).

(9) (3) Pump Up The Jam — Technotronic (SBK).

(10) (5) Evening — Jody Watley (MCA).

The top 10 country-and-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

(1) Fast Moving Train — Restless Heart (RCA).

(2) (10) Southern Star — Alabama (RCA).

(3) (10) Overnight Success — George Strait (MCA).

(4) (16) Heartbreak Hurricane — Ricky Skaggs (Epic).

(5) (5) State Of A Fool — Ricky Van Shelton (Columbia).

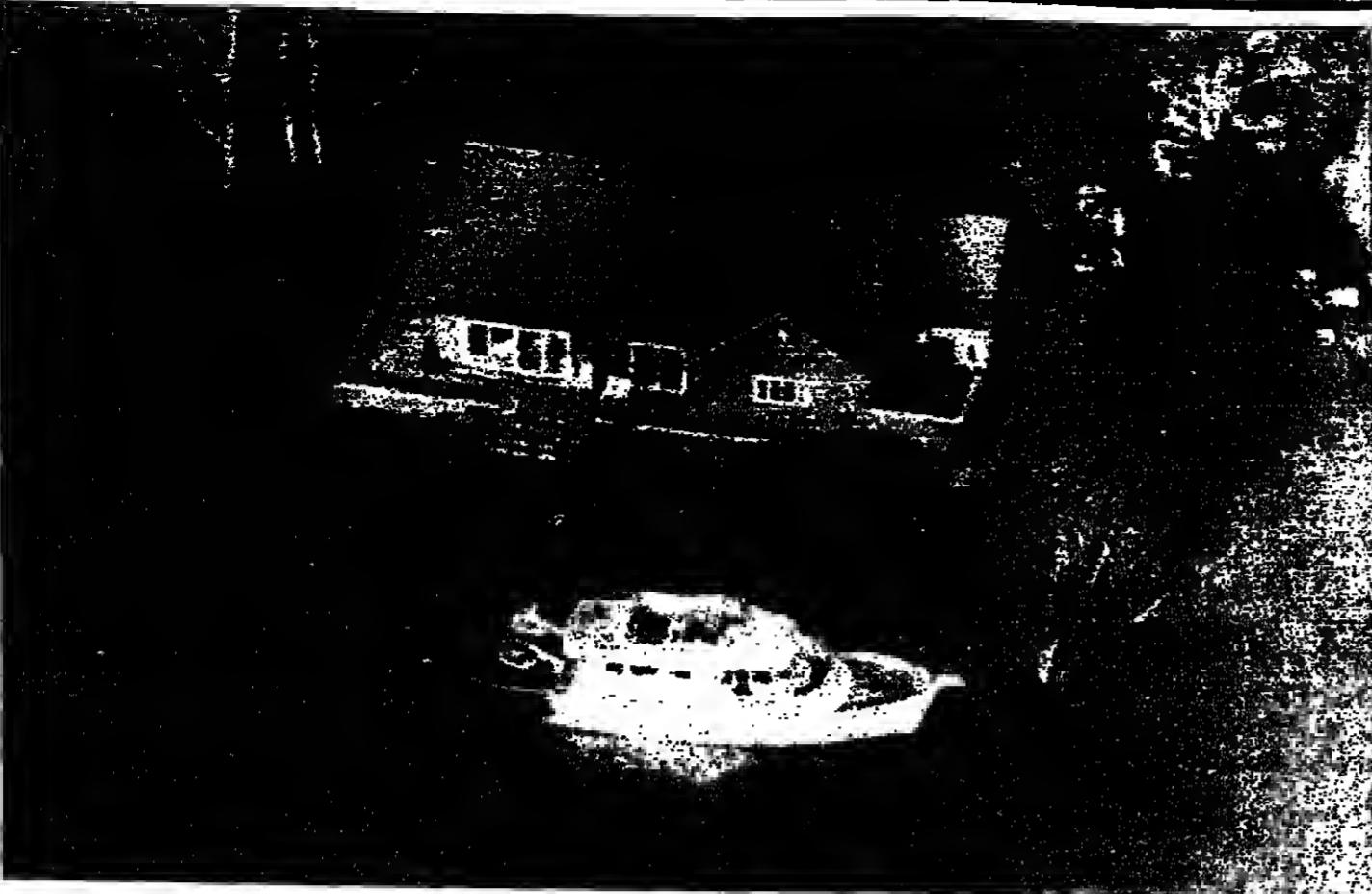
(6) (11) Little Girl — Reba McEntire (MCA).

(7) (7) One Man Woman — The Judds (Curb-RCA).

(8) (9) Where You've Been — Kathy Mattea (Mercury-Polygram).

(9) (13) No Matter How High — The Dixie Boys (MCA).

(10) (1) On Second Thought — Eddie Rabbitt (Universal).



House - ahoy!

A boat is moored in front of a house after the Thames River overflowed its banks following a severe storm in southern England and

Wales Feb 8. More than 70 miles of the Thames is under a flood alert. (Reuter wirephoto)

2 dead: homes, farms flooded

Second storm hits UK

LONDON, Feb 9. (AP): At least two people have died in Britain's second storm in less than two weeks as rain flooded homes and farmland in southern England and fallen trees blocked roads and railroad tracks, police said.

An Atlantic storm swept into Britain Wednesday, packing winds of 60 to 80 miles (95 to 130 kilometres) per hour.

A storm that struck Europe on Jan 25 killed 47 people in Britain and caused one billion pounds (\$1.7 billion) in damage in south and west England.

Southwesterly winds sweeping the English Channel with gusts up to 100 miles (160 kilometres) per hour lashed coastal towns and cities in the west on Wednesday and disrupted ferry sailings.

Police said a man died Wednesday when a tree fell over by the wind crushed his car near Andover 60 miles (95 kilometres) per hour southwest of London. A repairman trying to restore power in houses without electricity because of storm damage near Wimborne 95 miles (150 kilometres) west of London was also killed Wednesday when he was struck by a car.

The strong winds brought down power lines in southern England, blacking out the small town of Fleet 35 miles (55 kilometres) southwest of London and 2,000 homes in surrounding countryside. Elsewhere in southern England, authorities

reported roads and railroad tracks blocked by fallen trees and damage to overhead power pickup lines of electrified sections of railroad.

"Wales and the west country are particularly badly hit with flooding and very high winds making conditions absolutely unbearable," a spokesman for the automobile association said.

Days of rain have caused serious flooding in Scotland, Wales and western England.

British rail services were disrupted in Wales, and a south Wales police spokesman described road conditions as "abysmal."

Weather forecasting organisations have been scrupulous about predicting storms since the October 1987 nighttime storm that took much of southern England by surprise, killing 20 people. A Defence ministry investigation said the meteorological office failed to give adequate warning of that storm because its scientists put too much trust in the predictions of an out-of-date computer.

Forecasters said the high winds are caused by cold air moving down from the Arctic, hitting unseasonably warm air surrounding Britain in the Atlantic, creating the very dramatic low pressure that fuels the winds.

The strong winds brought down power lines in southern England, blacking out the small town of Fleet 35 miles (55 kilometres) southwest of London and 2,000 homes in surrounding countryside. Elsewhere in southern England, authorities

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Subliminal self-help tapes Miracle cure or fraud

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan, Feb 9, (AP): Soft classical music plays from an overhead sound system in the offices of Mind Communication Inc., while telephone operators take orders for the company's subliminal self-help audio and video cassettes.

They may be hearing Mozart, but the 40 employees are willing guinea pigs for the company's theory that what you can't hear is perhaps more important than what you can.

The music masks subliminal suggestions — inaudible messages supposedly perceptible only to the subconscious — motivating employees to overcome procrastination and increase production. The messages include "I do it today" and "Take action now."

"I've had it in for two weeks and I've seen a huge difference," chiropractor and company president Paul Tuthill says from his office in the Grand Rapids' suburb of Wyoming. "The good people have improved immensely and the people who are marginal or shirkers quit."

Mind Communication, which reported sales of \$3.5 million in 1983, is one of only a few companies in the \$30 million self-help tape industry.

The industry's premise is that we can recognise information presented below our threshold of awareness. Even though the listener hears only soothing music or the sound of ocean waves on an audio cassette or sees images of nature on a video, the subconscious mind can detect the hundreds or thousands of speeded-up, underlying subliminal suggestions, manufacturers say.

Mind Communication offers about 300 titles by direct mail, ranging from weight loss and improving sex — two of the biggest sellers — to controlling spending habits and becoming a better bowler. There are tapes designed for children to build self-esteem or stop bedwetting.

Subliminals have been raising eyebrows since the 1950s, when it was reported that by flashing "eat popcorn" during a movie, theatre owners prompted patrons to rush for the concession stand, unaware they had been subliminally persuaded.

In recent years, it appears millions of consumers have brushed aside the diabolical connotations associated with mind control and comparisons to big brother while they plunk down \$10 to \$40 for what manufacturers market as a shortcut for solving problems and breaking bad habits.

The 60-minute tapes, most of which provide a script of their messages, are prominently displayed near self-help books in national bookstore chains. Such US publishing companies as Simon and Schuster, Random House and Bantam Books recently have devised their own versions.

Many respected researchers claim there is no proof these self-help tapes work.

"They're a waste of time and money," said Howard Shevin, a University of Michigan psychologist who has been involved in subliminal research for more than 30 years. Shevin said even if there was a behavioural change in some people, it would be impossible to trace it to the tapes.

Shevin suggests the possibility of harmful side effects in some people, a theory with which Tuthill agrees.

"Theoretically, they could be harmful with forced prolonged exposure," Tuthill said. "If the message is noxious or contrary to what you want, people have actually developed some bizarre symptoms."

Tuthill said he has seen a smoker developed headaches and heart palpitations when exposed to a stop-smoking tape. The symptoms stopped when the person stopped listening to the music. Tuthill even puts warning labels on his weight loss tapes because of reports from paediatricians that children inadvertently exposed to the tapes were losing weight.

Barrie Konicov, owner of the

Gene can suppress tumours: A gene that blocks a rare eye cancer can also suppress prostate tumours, one of the most common cancers among men, a group of researchers report in a study to be published Friday in Washington.

In experiments in laboratory mice, scientists at the University of California-San Diego say they have shown that a normally functioning retinoblastoma gene, or RB, inserted into human prostate cancer cells is able to suppress formation of tumours.

The RB gene is usually missing, mutated or not functioning in such tumours.

Dr Robert Bookstein, one of the researchers, said the study may help advance progress toward learning how to control cancer through use of tumour suppressor genes, such as RB, or the proteins that such genes produce.

Such cancer therapy, however, "is years and years away," he said.

Barry Nelkin, a cancer suppressor gene researcher at the Johns Hopkins University oncology centre, said the California study "is potentially quite important."

"A lot of people are looking for the genetic link to prostate cancer. The few studies that have been done have not pointed to anything specific."

Nelkin said finding that the RB gene is a suppressor in prostate cancer "gives us a clue as to the mechanism of tumour genesis."

Bookstein said scientists in the California study used a retrovirus to insert the RB gene into human prostate cancer cells that did not contain the gene.

The genetically treated cancer cells were injected into the right flanks of 20 mice that lacked an immune system, a special breed. The scientists injected untreated prostate cancer cells in the left flank of the mice.

New colon cancer therapy: About 5,000 people with advanced operable colon cancer could be saved each year by treatment with a medicine used to de-worm farm animals, a researcher says.

About one-third of newly diagnosed patients with this stage of disease have been put on the drug since its benefits were announced by the National Cancer Institute last fall.

A detailed report on the treatment was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, and doctors said they hoped this information will convince physicians who are still sceptical.

"With publication in a prestigious journal, they will review this information and decide it is worth trying," predicted Dr Michael Friedman, chief of the cancer institute's therapy evaluation programme.

The treatment, which combines the veterinary drug Levamisole and the standard cancer medicine Fluorouracil, is the first chemotherapy approach shown to help people with the most advanced form of colon cancer that can be removed surgically.

The therapy was tested on 1,296 colon cancer patients in a study directed by Dr Charles G. Moertel of the Mayo Clinic. Over three years, the treatment reduced cancer recurrence by 41 percent, and it lowered the death rate by one-third.



Di with Lee

Princess Diana talks to Mark Lee, a team leader of Turning Point, Hungarford Drug Project at their Soho offices in London's West End. She is patron of the charity, one of the largest in the UK dealing with drug and mental health problems. (Reuter wirephoto)

Happiness disease: As if people with low self-esteem didn't have enough problems, here's a new one: research suggests that happy events in their lives may make them feel sick later on.

The culprit appears to be stress that arises when good fortune, such as finding a new job or landing a promotion, forces them to reassess their low self-esteem, researchers said.

"If you think of yourself as basically a loser, and all of a sudden you're accepted in the best sorority in town, and you're doing really well in school... you're forced to rethink some key aspects of who you are," said researcher Jonathan Brown.

Support for the idea comes from two studies conducted by Brown, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Washington, and Kevin McGill of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The work appears in the December issue of the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

One study included 261 students in grades 7 to 11 at a girl's school in the Los Angeles area and the other focused on 107 students at Southern Methodist. Researchers measured the self-esteem of the students and asked them which "major life events" from a list had occurred to them over the previous 12 months.

The list included such events as breaking up with a girlfriend or boyfriend, or getting a new one, or losing or adding a family member. The participants also indicated whether they considered the event to be positive, negative or neutral.

In the girls' school study, students were asked four months later about illnesses they developed since completing the survey. For students with low self-esteem, the more positive events they had recorded, the more colds, sore throats, sinus infections, ear infections and laryngitis they tended to report during the follow-up period.

14-year-old Potentials Unlimited Inc. of Grand Rapids, has among its 200 titles, bust enlargement and birth control ("if you create a thought that you will not get pregnant, you will not get pregnant," is one message.)

A 1981 protest by the US Food and Drug Administration forced

Konicov to soften his medical claims. He stands by his tapes, one million to two million copies of which sell each year worldwide in bookstore chains.

"Look, it's a \$10 tape," he said, adding that the company offers a money-back guarantee.



Victims of oil spill

Dead oil-soaked birds are stacked in boxes at a lifeguard station Feb 8 where a cleaning station has been set to save birds and other wildlife contaminated by oil from tanker American Trader. Right: Volunteers feed one of the birds rescued from Huntington Beach. The American Trader carried 21 million gallons (79 million litres) of crude oil when its hull was punctured, apparently by an anchor, as it approached an oil pipeline mooring about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometres) offshore Wednesday night.

By Thursday night, the vessel apparently had stopped leaking oil. Coast Guard Rear Adm. William Kime said.

The ship had been chartered by British Petroleum Oil Shipping Co. USA to deliver Alaskan North Slope Crude oil to the Golden West refinery in Santa Fe Springs. (Reuter wirephoto)

Drug summit communiqué

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (AP): US and Latin officials are close to agreement on a communiqué for next week's drug summit pledging US help to revamp the drug-dependent economies of Peru, Bolivia and Colombia, sources say.

The communiqué to be signed at the four-nation meeting also would commit US President George Bush to press other Western nations to provide economic aid to the Andean nations, said a South American diplomat.

Speaking on condition of anonymity.

The document is being prepared for the signatures of the four presidents — Bush, Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Alan Garcia of Peru and Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia — who will meet Feb 15 in Cartagena, Colombia, to discuss the problem of drug trafficking.

US military assistance to the Andean countries is not spelled out in the document, but the

Latin leaders have insisted it be restricted to equipment and training rather than direct US military involvement in interdiction, said the South American diplomat.

Those familiar with the document described it as broad in tone, without specifying how much money the United States would give the Latin nations in exchange for their participation in cracking down on drug production and trafficking.

However, the document will get into specific issues regarding interdiction and military cooperation, economic alternatives to the drug trade, and efforts to get other countries aid in the anti-drug effort, said Michael Skol, deputy assistant secretary of state for South American affairs.

"We're very close" to agreeing among the countries on final wording, Skol said yesterday.

\$300 billion involved in global laundering

Curb Achilles heel of drug dealing: call

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (AP): Laundering money from cocaine sales and a host of other criminal activities represents a \$300-billion worldwide business each year, but could prove the drug trade's key area of vulnerability, a US Senate report said yesterday.

"Because money laundering is principally accomplished through the use of legitimate financial institutions, money laundering is the potential Achilles heel of the illegal drug business," said the report from two Senate panels.

The report released by Sen. John F. Kerry was based on testimony

before the Senate Foreign Relations and Banking Committees last fall.

Attributed to Assistant Treasury Secretary Salvatore Martocchio, the estimate that world-wide drug revenues total \$300 billion annually, including \$10 billion generated in the United States, it said laundering all of this cash presents tough problems for criminals.

For example, \$100 billion in \$20 bills, a denomination often used in drug transactions, would weigh 26 million pounds (11.7 million kilograms), the report said.

"A money laundering operation in New York shut down earlier this year required a tractor-trailer to haul away \$19 million in small bills," it said.

It said the 1970 Bank Secrecy Act is working as a deterrent to money laundering through US financial institutions. The measure requires the institutions to report cash deposits of \$10,000 or more.

The report said, however, that drug traffickers "continue to use foreign banks and foreign branches of US banks to launder US drug profits."

It said Switzerland, Canada, the Bahamas, Luxembourg, Panama and Hong Kong are among the main countries where money is laundered. It also said criminals are pushing to develop money laundering centres in a number of tiny countries, ranging from Andorra to Vanuatu.

The report said illicit funds are sometimes accepted in large cash deposits by corrupt bank employees. It said funds sometimes are laundered through seemingly legitimate businesses that appear to generate substantial amounts of cash. And often they are transferred to foreign banks that are not overly anxious about the source, it said.

"After the money has gone through one or more 'wash cycles,' it can be transferred into a legitimate US business," the report said.

The report said part of the scandals that have shaken the savings and loan industry in the United States involved thefts by organised crime organisations.

"Significant funds generated from (savings and loan) theft have been laundered beyond US borders through offshore bank secrecy havens," the report declared. "These funds now represent an enormous endowment devoted to the support of organised crime."

It said the success of efforts to stem money laundering through US banks has turned launderers toward unregulated financial institutions, such as money transmitters, check-cashing stores and currency exchanges.

The report said the government currently has no policy on control of international electronic transfers of US funds.

"As a consequence, money launderers retain a choice of methods to conceal their laundered funds through international wire transfers, including informal channels involving fax machines, telex, personal computer networks and ordinary telephone instructions which do not leave the paper trail which would allow investigators to follow the flow of funds," it said.

In Paris, French Finance Minister Pierre Bertrand said bankers yesterday watch out for illicit drug money and said a new law would make it easier for them to report their suspicions.

The law, to be debated in Parliament later this year, will relax traditional secrecy rules and allow bankers, insurers, stockbrokers and money changers to pass on details of dubious deposits to the authorities for checks.

Information would be used to prosecute launderers of drug money, who pass an estimated \$90 billion a year through Western banks.

Endara visits Colon

Panamanian President Guillermo Endara is greeted by female workers from a textile plant in Colon, Panama's second largest city Feb 8. Endara spent a

day in Colon, which suffers serious unemployment, crime and social injustice. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Mandela may be killed in backlash

White extremists threatening armed struggle

CAPETOWN, Feb 9. (Agencies): White right-wing extremists in South Africa have threatened to kill black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela after he is released from prison, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said yesterday.

"Threats from the right are well known. I believe Mr Mandela is aware of these threats and he is taking them into account," Vlok told reporters in Cape Town.

President F.W. de Klerk last week lifted a 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement and promised to free Mandela, its jailed figurehead, from life imprisonment.



Warming up

Jesse Jackson, wife of American civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, has her hands warmed at a braai with some South African children during his first day of a 10-day visit to South Africa. (Reuter wirephoto)

Namibia adopts first constitution

Ready for independence

WINDHOEK, Feb 9. (AP): The constituent assembly today unanimously adopted a democratic, Western-style constitution in preparation for Namibia's independence from South Africa on March 21.

The constitution guarantees fundamental individual rights and limits a president to two five-year terms, a rarity in a continent where leaders traditionally serve for life.

Its unanimous adoption represents a remarkable spirit of reconciliation among assembly members who were on opposite sides during a 23-year guerrilla war for independence.

The 72-member assembly approved the constitution in a session held on the front steps of the Tintenpalast, the legislative building on a hilltop in Windhoek.

"Today the masses of our people have a constitution which embodies their aspirations to be masters of their own destiny," said Sam Nujoma, who is expected to be the first president and is leader of the dominant South-West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo).

Namibia was formerly called South West Africa.

A four-metre-by-six-metre (13-foot-by-20-foot) print of the constitution's preamble served as a backdrop for the session, which also was attended by Louis Pienaar, the South African administrator of the territory, and Martti Ahtisaari, head of the United Nations contingent monitoring the independence process.

South Africa has ruled Namibia since 1915, but agreed to grant independence under a regional peace accord also signed by Angola and Cuba. More than 6,000 UN civilian and military personnel have been monitoring the process since last April.

Namibia will keep the South African rand currency in circulation for at least two years after independence in March, Finance Minister-designate Otto Herrigel said.

It was the first speech detailing the economic policies of the South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo) since the former guerrilla movement won last November's election.

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- suppliers

- banker

Government

The following knowledge/experience is needed for the job :

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- well known with automation

- Arabic and English languages in writing/typing/ speaking

- experience in comparable job for several years.

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The General Manager

Mr J. Verberk

P.O. Box 42273 Shuaikah

70653 Kuwait.

The envelopes should be clearly marked "Bookkeeper/ Secretary"

New era awaits Soweto: Jackson

SOWETO, South Africa, Feb 9, (Reuters): American civil rights leader Jesse Jackson toured South Africa's black township of Soweto yesterday and told people a new era was on the way.

"Right here in Soweto, every morning now, you are teaching a potential president of South Africa," he declared in an impromptu speech to about 300 teachers holding a meeting on education problems in blacks-only schools under apartheid.

Jackson, on the second day of a 10-day visit to South Africa, strode along rubbish-strewn dirt tracks to peer at some of the corrugated-iron shacks and tents that are home to about seven million South Africans.

A group of ragged women and barefoot children followed him around. Some bemused residents said they thought Jackson, a former Democratic presidential candidate and chairman, was the US president.

Outside the Soweto home of recently freed African National Congress (ANC) leader Walter Sisulu, Jackson and his wife joined a group of schoolchildren in the "tsoyi-toyi," a dance of defiance, and told them: "The power today is in your hands."

"One day, not long from now, the children of Soweto will have the same educational opportunities as people anywhere," he said.

Earlier yesterday Jackson told a meeting of anti-apartheid church leaders that it was up to them to help South Africa's ruling white minority to overcome its fear of black people and of political change.

His statement followed a speech by President F.W. de Klerk last Friday, unbanning the ANC and Communist Party, freeing political prisoners and lifting some emergency regulations.

"Whites have been bred on the big lie," Jackson said, adding that whites, both in South Africa and in the United States in the 1960s when he was campaigning for black rights, felt blacks were inferior and dangerous.

Jackson, who last visited South Africa in 1979, sees his role as conciliator between government and opposition forces.

He has been enthusiastically received by anti-apartheid groups but the Pretoria government doubts his objectivity and has not responded to his request for a meeting with officials.

De Klerk must put his political future on the line if he wants to save South Africa, Jackson said.

"His challenge now of course is to do a big thing. It requires that he be more than a politician, that he be a statesman, willing to pay the ultimate price in terms of personal politics for his nation," Jackson said in an interview.

"Great leaders do not follow opinion polls, they mould opinion polls. Mr. De Klerk's party is in power now, he has the power if he has the will and the vision to in fact establish the framework for a new South Africa."

While the moves have been welcomed by the anti-apartheid movement as an indication that De Klerk is serious in his pledge to enfranchise the black majority, many white South Africans who voted for him in elections last September say the President has betrayed them.

"Take care that you do not lose your own constituency, for without it you are doomed," the pro-government citizen newspaper warned De Klerk in a recent editorial.

In his first public message home since Pretoria declared him a "non-person" 12 years ago, exiled former newspaper editor Donald Woods warned white South Africans Wednesday they are victims of "official lies."

Woods—a central character in the Richard Attenborough film "Cry Freedom"—was writing in the daily Dispatch, the morning newspaper he edited.

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De Klerk's announcements triggered a furious right-wing backlash with the white supremacist Conservative Party planning marches to demand a whites-only election and shadowy neo-Nazi groups threatening armed resistance.

In 1988, Barend Strydom, the self-proclaimed leader of a group called the White Wolves, mowed down several black pedestrians in Pretoria with an automatic rifle.

He was sentenced to death but his shooting spree was hailed by ultra-conservative whites as a heroic defense of their values.

De Klerk has not said when Mandela, 71, will be released, but government sources told Reuters it should be within a week to 10 days and could be before the weekend.

Mandela has served 27 years of a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule.

The sources said arrangements for his safety were among the issues delaying his release.

Vlok said police were aware of regular threats to Mandela's life since the possibility of his release was first publicly discussed about five years ago.

"We're very concerned... Mr Mandela's life has been threatened from the right and from the left, from within his own ranks."

He said threats from the left were... from within the ANC, yes, and from the black community. Especially over the last year or two years there has been information coming through about factions that don't like the role Mr Mandela has been playing."

Cheryl Carolus, spokeswoman for the pro-ANC United Democratic Front, dismissed Vlok's claim of a left-wing threat and said "if anything, the black community will protect him."

She said Vlok was using the allegation of a leftist threat to delay Mandela's release in an attempt to discredit the ANC.

"Nelson Mandela is the most widely respected leader of the black community. Our fear is that he is from the right, from people like the AWB (Afrikaner Resistance Movement). The police must do their job and ensure that nothing happens to him," she said.

Vlok declined to give evidence of the threats, which he said had been reported to him by security policemen.

"It has been happening over the years, but from the right it has happened more often recently because their threats are mainly centred around his release," Vlok said.

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Jackson visits Soweto

American civil rights leader, Jesse Jackson, holds a black baby during his tour of Johannesburg's Soweto township on Feb 8. Jackson is on a 10-day visit to South Africa. (Reuter wirephoto)

Soweto township on Feb 8. Jackson is on a 10-day visit to South Africa. (Reuter wirephoto)

UN to hold summit

Bid to end kid deaths

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 9, (UPI): Six countries announced plans yesterday to hold a meeting of world leaders aimed at drawing up strategies to prevent the daily deaths of an estimated 40,000 children around the world.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he will send invitations to all heads of state and government to meet in New York Sept. 29-30 for what he described as a "historic meeting" to serve the needs of children.

"People everywhere should think how they can contribute to that meeting," Perez de Cuellar said in announcing the two-day conference that is being prepared by representatives from 22 countries, including China, Bangladesh, the United States, the Soviet Union and Zimbabwe.

The six countries, headed by Canada, that initiated the summit meeting said in a news conference attended by Perez de Cuellar that children will not take part in the meeting, which aims rather

to secure an unequivocal commitment from political leaders to serve the young population.

"Our three presidents and three prime ministers have dared to dream the seemingly impossible, too," said Canadian UN Ambassador Yves Fortier.

"They dream of a world in which parents are not—each day—confronted with the tragedy of burying some 40,000 children."

Fortier said it will be a "summit of do-able things" with no extravagant cost and which will involve UN specialised agencies that have been dealing with issues related to child welfare.

Besides Fortier, the UN ambassadors from Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden also attended the news conference announcing the convening of the "world summit for children".

The purpose of the conference will be to promote a strong commitment, at the highest government levels to strategies for ensuring the protection and survival of children around the world.

Budd's killer jailed

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Feb 9, (AP): A 24-year-old man with at least seven previous theft and fraud convictions was sentenced yesterday to 12 years in prison for the shotgun murder of Frank Budd, father of distance runner Zola Budd.

Christian Barnard, who could have been sentenced to be hanged, was described by Supreme Court Justice A.P. Von Coller as a dishonest witness. But the judge said there was a reasonable possibility that Barnard had been provoked into the killing because Budd made sexual advances toward him.

Barnard also was convicted of stealing a pick-up truck from Budd's farm.

Budd, 59, when he was killed last September, was a homosexual, according to associates and family members.

N. Korea nuke bid concerns Japan

TOKYO, Feb 9. (Reuters): Japan today expressed serious concern at a scientist's report that North Korea seems to be expanding a nuclear facility that could enable it to build nuclear weapons.

Professor Toshihumi Sakata of Tokyo's Tokai University said computer analysis of satellite pictures taken more than three years apart showed the North Koreans had put up a large new building at the facility north of Pyongyang and constructed access roads.

"Our findings are probably the first to confirm Western intelligence reports about North Korea's progress in building a nuclear reactor," Sakata told Reuters.

"Once the plant is running, they'll be able to extract plutonium and make nuclear weapons," he said.

The scientist said the London-based Jane's defence weekly last year reported that this could happen within the next five years.

After reports of Sakata's findings appeared in Japanese newspapers today, a government spokesman was asked at a regular news conference whether Japan saw a threat in the North Korean facility, located in the region of Nyongbyong, about 90 km (56 miles) north of Pyongyang.

"We are very concerned," said the spokesman, deputy chief cabinet secretary Nobuo Ishihara. "But at the present stage we have no confirmed information."

"It is impossible to determine whether the facility is for military purposes or peaceful purposes."

Sakata, who heads the private Tokai University Research and Information Centre, said he had not informed the government before making his findings public.

"I am under no obligation to report my findings to the government," he said.

The reporters who covered my group's findings informed the Foreign Ministry and other offices, I presume. I've heard nothing from government officials regarding this matter."

Sakata said his team had compared two sets of photographs of the Nyongbyong site taken by the French spot satellite in 1986 and in 1989.

"The June 1986 photo shows construction was taking place. In the photo taken in September 1989, we were able to see that the installation area had increased substantially in size, including roads and a large building."

Japanese newspapers said communist North Korea, with Soviet help, had constructed a nuclear plant for research purposes in the Nyongbyong area in the mid-1970s. The original plant's capacity was estimated at 2,000-4,000 kilowatts.

Nearly 37 years after an armistice ending a bitter war between the two Koreas, Pyongyang has still not signed a peace treaty either with the anti-communist South or with the United States, which led a UN international force backing Seoul.



A satellite picture, taken by the French Spot satellite on Sept 16 shows North Korea's progress in building a nuclear reactor.

Alliance born Seoul power game

SEOUL, Feb 9. (Reuters): Three formerly bitter contenders for power in South Korea stood hand-in-hand on a Seoul stage today, launching a new ruling conservative coalition to dominate the country's political life through the 1990s.

The new Democratic Liberal Party, forged in a surprise deal last month and patterned after Japan's long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was attacked by opponents as anti-democratic and unethical.

In a show of unity rare in South Korean politics, President Roh Taek-Woo was joined by two former opposition leaders, Kim Young Sam and Kim Jong-Pill, at the birth of new party, beginning its life with more than a two-thirds majority in parliament.

"Let us forget about the turbulence of the past and look forward to the future," Roh told several thousand guests at a reception to celebrate the party's birth.

The reception in a cavernous convention centre in south Seoul followed an afternoon ceremony formally inaugurating the party, and naming Roh and the two Kims co-leaders. The party will be legally registered on Feb 15.

Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung, now the odd man out in South Korean politics, condemned the new party as a political coup d'etat against the people.

"Today will go down in history as the national day of humiliation at the cost of democracy," Kim Dae-Jung, for decades the country's best-known dissident leader, said in a statement.

"We demand an end to this anti-national, anti-democratic and unethical scheme," he said.

In Kim Dae-Jung's southwestern stronghold of Kwangju, a centre for dissident politics, police fired tear-gas to disperse 1,000 radical students protesting against the new party, the Yonhap news agency said.

Police in Seoul also reported a few small protests against the new party on campuses in the capital.

Taiwan free for all

TAIPEI, Feb 9. (Reuters): Taiwan legislators kicked, punched, and screamed their way into a new session today as the opposition stepped up demands for the resignation of aging members.

Opposition legislators fought with delegates appointed to represent overseas Chinese communities, attempting to keep them from attending a swearing-in ceremony.

The ceremony began even while the legislators were still screaming and fighting.

An aide to one of the overseas Chinese representatives yelled at protesters: "If I were in America now I'd take my gun and shoot all of you."

During the singing of the national anthem, opposition member Wu Yung-Hsiung leapt onto the podium and started screaming abuse at the overseas Chinese delegates.

Even after he was dragged down Wu, wearing a bright orange costume festooned with slogans, continued to scream as legislators raised their arms to be sworn in.

Only 101 members of the legislature were selected on Taiwan.

The majority — some 162 — represent the seats they were first elected in in China before the ruling Nationalist Party fled to Taiwan from the Communist victory on the mainland in 1949.



Stones set to conquer Japan

Accompanied by six sword-wielding Samurai warriors, the Rolling Stones met 200 clapping, whistling reporters and photographers in Tokyo on Friday ahead of the group's first concert in Japan.

"We're so happy to see so many people come to welcome us," lead singer Mick Jagger (standing next to an actor dressed as a Samurai) said.

He said the band would add another date to the nine concerts already planned for Tokyo's "big egg," the domed baseball stadium. All nine dates are sold out and ticket scalpers are already reaping a windfall.

This is the first time in its 27-year history the rock 'n' roll group will play in Japan.

Cambodian soldiers, fed up with hard life, sack second largest port

BANGKOK, Feb 9. (UPI): About 250 mutinous Cambodian government soldiers, upset with their hard lives fighting in the jungle, seized and looted Cambodia's second largest port for two days before fleeing, Thai military sources said.

"The incident began Tuesday night when approximately 250 (president) Heng Samrin troops surrounded government offices at San Tong district and the Pak Klong Port of Koh Kong province," said a military intelligence officer in Thailand's

neighboring Trat Province.

"There was looting, shooting and destruction of government and civilian property, but there have been no reports of deaths," said the officer who spoke on condition not to be identified. He said the extent of the damage was not known.

The mutiny appeared to confirm increasing reports of low morale and ill discipline among poorly paid government troops who are fighting a three-part guerrilla coalition that includes the

tough, Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge.

Koh Kong only about 10 miles (16 km) from Trat by sea, is the country's second-largest port after Kompong Som and the main access route for consumer goods from Thailand.

The Thai intelligence officer said the troops were disgruntled at the contrast between their harsh lives in the jungle fighting the Khmer Rouge and the easy, highly profitable lives of traders and officials in the port town.

Chinese communists to hang on to monopoly

'Western democracy plaything of the rich'

BELING, Feb 9. (Agencies): China's Communist Party said there can be no change in its leading role. Without the party in control, the nation would sink into chaos, said a strongly worded editorial in the party's official People's Daily, yesterday.

The statement came as the Soviet Communist Party in Moscow voted to end its constitutional guarantee of leadership.

The commentary was an obvious rejoinder to events in the socialist world, although it made no mention of the Soviet Union or rapid reforms in Eastern Europe. Instead, it branded Western democracies as playthings of the rich.

China's conservative leaders have suppressed all dissent and criticism of the Communist Party since calling in the military to crush the student-led democracy movement last spring.

Leaders reportedly are deeply concerned that events in East Europe and the Soviet Union could rejuvenate popular uprising to the government.

"In China, without the strong leadership of the Communist Party, new turmoil and wars would surely arise; the nation would be split, and the people, not to mention state construction, would suffer again," the editorial said.

It said Communist Party rule was "endorsed and supported by the whole nation rather than proclaimed" by the party.

The "elite" who stirred up the "enruler-revolutionary rebellion" — official terminology for the Tiananmen Square movement of last spring — sought to dislodge the party and establish Western-style parliamentary democracy, it said.

"Some people," it said, "always think that the parliamentary democracy in the West is advantageous."

But it said Western democracies are controlled by the rich and "the broad masses of working people have never had the right to take part in the administration of state affairs."

It added: "Those who have more money will have more freedom and have more right to talk in the democracy. Such democracy means nothing to those who do not have enough to eat."

Western diplomats said China and the Soviet Union, the world's two communist giants, stood on the brink of a new diplomatic rift.

Meanwhile, China and the Soviet Union began a second round of talks today aimed at reducing troop levels along their 7,000-km (4,300-mile) common border.

The Soviet embassy said the talks on cutting military forces and armaments along the border will continue until Feb 22.

An embassy official said the

six diplomats and six military experts.

Defense officials said the talks will include issues such as proposed cuts in the 45,000 US troops in South Korea, increased Japanese financial support for 50,000 US troops now stationed in Japan and the likely future of two key US bases in the Philippines — Clark and Subic Bay.

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Tax row fails to stir up Tokyo voters

TOKYO, Feb 9, (Reuter): Japan's opposition parties have made the government's unpopular sales tax the focus of their general election campaigns, but in one Tokyo district, at least, voters seem unmoved by the noisy controversy.

A walk through Meguro, just west of the capital's ritzy Ginza shopping quarter, shows most citizens expect Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party to scrape back with a narrow majority in the Feb 18 poll.

Opposition loudspeaker trucks boom out calls to abolish the tax, canvassers echo the message as they put their heads into doorways of the small shops that abound in this corner of the election battleground.

But local shopowners and consumers in the third of the capital's 11 electoral districts have grown accustomed to the tax since blazing controversy over it helped push the LDP to an historic defeat in last July's upper-house elections.

Many would not feel secure voting for an opposition candidate solely to register protest over the three percent tax. Voters cite other everyday worries, like the high cost of education, housing and food.

"People here aren't stirred up about the election like before. The consumption tax is already in place," said Yakichiro Ootomo, manager of an optical store.

He said half the local residents were for and half against the tax, which went into effect last April, a full decade after it was first proposed.

Most frustrating for shopkeepers coping with the new tax at first was chasing, after small change. Now cash registers and coin pockets are filled with the detested and almost worthless one yen coins.

One solution has been to round up prices to the nearest five yen as 65-year-old Hiroshi Imai discovered. He and his wife have run a tiny shop selling coffee and tea for over 40 years.

Similar "mom and pop" shops line the narrow street, punctuated by the gaudy shopfronts of McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Master Donuts.

"The hardest thing was computing the tax in my head," Imai said.

Even though the pair oppose the tax, currently levied on all purchases, they plan to vote LDP because they believe in its efforts towards internationalisation and liberalisation, he said.

Some see a need for the tax.

"When we are old, who will take care of us," said Kei Nagata, 57. "There are fewer children now and pensions are small. The tax is necessary. Without it, I feel insecure."

Nevertheless Nagata would like to see the LDP follow up on its proposal to slash the tax on food.

She and her husband are third-generation owners of a tiny shop where three customers are a crowd.

At present they have to pay the sales tax to each of their two middlemen.

Yet she and her husband will vote LDP.

The sites of two paddies where "sacred" rice will be grown for Emperor Akihito's ritual first communion with the gods, a mystical part of his ascension to the throne, were selected yesterday by the imperial palace.

The ancient selection ceremony was met immediately by criticism from several Christian, academic and leftist groups, which say state backing of the communion rite violates Japan's constitution.

Imperial ritualists dressed in flowing robes and black headgear gathered at three palace shrines yesterday morning, and divined auspicious locations for the paddies by burning sea turtle shells over charcoal.

An official of the imperial household agency, which manages palace affairs, said Akita prefecture, in northeastern Japan, and Oita prefecture, to the west, were chosen.

Because of security concerns, the exact location of the paddies is not expected to be announced until the rice, to be planted in June, is harvested in September.

E. German hydra

EAST BERLIN, Feb 9, (Reuter): Ninety-nine ordinary East Germans have the job of presiding over the death throes of the dreaded Stasi security police, a monster which reached into all aspects of life under the former hardline communist government.

"Our aim is to make sure it's impossible for the hydra to sprout new heads," said spokeswoman Hannelore Koehler, referring to the Greek mythological creature whose heads grew again when cut off.

"But it is not easy," said Koehler in an interview. "No one in the world has any experience carrying out such a job."

Bush stress on strong defence

'Response to Soviet reforms is stability'

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (AP): President George Bush claims no regret over his restrained response to the historic political reforms in the Soviet Union and says he hopes both Moscow and US allies see it as "stabilising sign."

Bush denied that his emphasising of defence issues during his three days on the road — coinciding with Moscow's dramatic moves towards ending the Communist Party's monopoly on power — was bad timing.

He told reporters later that he didn't think his assertiveness on national policy was out of sync with developments in Moscow "because it sends a clear message that I am behind a sensible defence programme and I'll stay behind it."

"So I hope that message comes through in a balanced way that we are not going to suddenly drastically change our course away from a reasonable defence programme," Bush said. "So I think the message is one of stability, of reasonableness."

"I'm not going to miss an opportunity in arms

control, but we're going to keep a strong defence."

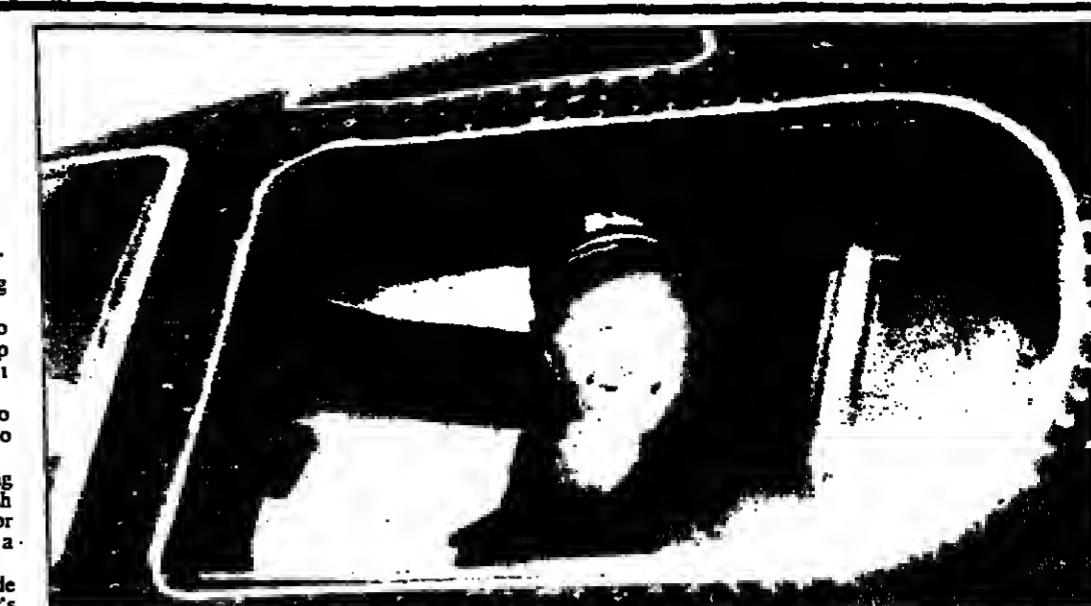
Bush said he was trying to send a "stabilising message, not a militant message."

"And that's why I think the timing happened to be fortuitous, because we had planned this trip before the Central Committee meeting but it worked out, in my view, very well."

He said he wanted Western European allies to know that the United States was not about to abandon them.

In remarks at a Republican Party fund-raising dinner in Columbus, Ohio, Thursday night, Bush praised Communist Party leaders in Moscow for taking "the first step towards pluralism" and a multi-party system.

Bush said he hopes to negotiate a new trade agreement with the Soviet Union by this summer's summit with Gorbachev in order to help expand markets for US exports.



Bush gives a thumbs-up as he looks out a cockpit window of a B-1B bomber during a tour of Offutt Air Force base. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gorbachev pledges to expand reforms

'No split in Politburo': party may lose power, warning

MOSCOW, Feb 9, (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev pledged today to press on with more reforms once he has instituted the sweeping limits on Communist Party power he pushed through the leadership two days ago.

Gorbachev said he had achieved everything he had set out to do at a three-day meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee in which the leadership approved his proposal to end the party's legal monopoly on power.

"Once we have solidified this phase, we will move on," Gorbachev

said before heading into a meeting today with US Secretary of State James Baker, who is in Moscow for talks on arms reduction proposals.

Gorbachev denied in his closing remarks at the party plenum that a split has erupted in the ruling Politburo, according to the text of the speech published today.

Gorbachev concluded the three-day plenum on the Central Committee, on Wednesday, acknowledging that some Politburo members differed openly on the reform package that removed the Communist Party's 72-year monopoly on power.

"I would like to say," Gorbachev said addressing his remarks to Central Committee member Nikolai Malkov, "that nobody should think that the Politburo has split. This is not the case and we should be striving that this should not be so."

A Soviet adviser, meanwhile, warned in an interview with the official Tass news agency that the Communist Party must reform or lose power to the opponents it has agreed to legalise.

The comments by economist Nikolai Petrakov were the first in which a top official raised the possibility that the Communist Party might actually be in danger of losing its ruling position.

Gorbachev gave a guarded answer when asked by reporters if he would run for President if the country creates a new, stronger office with the president chosen in a contested election.

"Let's wait and see," he said.

Looking relaxed as he spoke with a half-dozen reporters, he added that the changes pushed through the Central Committee this week had been in the works since he took power in 1985.

"It certainly would be wrong for the West and everyone to believe we began these changes only in the last few days," he said. "They have been under way since 1985."

On Wednesday, the Central Committee gave Gorbachev nearly unanimous approval of his proposal to strike an article off the Soviet constitution that guarantees the party the role of the country's leading and guiding force. Gorbachev said that from now on the party will have to prove its right to rule.

The Central Committee also gave Gorbachev approval to move up the next party congress, which has the power to choose a new party leadership.

Petrakov told Tass that after the party gives up its guarantee of power the communists may face the possibility of losing power or perhaps even disappearing altogether.

"A choice stands before the party in the conditions of political pluralism: restructure itself and struggle to show in competition its right to be the ruling party, or slide into opposition, or perhaps even disappear altogether."

Reformers contend that the party's decision to release its legal grip on power doesn't address the country's main problems — the economic chaos created by seven decades of centralised planning and the party's continued control of society.

Activists called yesterday for further steps to reduce the party's control.

"It is necessary to eliminate party organisations in the army, the police, the KGB, the courts, in all the state institutions," said Yuri Mitunov, a spokesman for a would-be opposition party, the Democratic Union.

where in Europe.

Over two days of meetings, Baker and Shevardnadze made headway toward a troop-reduction treaty and on another accord due for signing at the Washington summit meeting in June. The second pact would

reduce long-range nuclear missiles, bombers and submarines by 30 per cent to 50 per cent.

Baker offered at least one concession that would permit the Soviets to exclude from a projected ceiling some of combat aircraft they contend are defensive.

Focus on arms cut

Gorbachev, Baker hold talks for four hours

MOSCOW, Feb 9, (AP): President Mikhail Gorbachev met for nearly four hours today with US Secretary of State James Baker and said an American proposal for reducing troops in Europe deserves "very serious consideration."

Baker and senior aides were in their third day of talks with Kremlin leaders on arms control and other issues in advance of an expected superpower summit this summer.

Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze said "discussions" of the "disarmament problem" is proceeding very well.

At the start of today's meeting with Baker, Gorbachev praised US President George Bush's latest proposal for cutting the number of US and Soviet troops in Europe.

"It merits very, very serious consideration," he said.

The Soviet leader has called in the past for even broader disarmament measures. Asked if Bush should have gone further than to propose leaving 225,000 American and Soviet troops in Europe, Gorbachev said:

"I don't know. It's up to the US government to make its own proposal. It would be good if we co-operate, just as we are co-operating now."

Baker, who ends his visit to Moscow tomorrow, met with Shevardnadze before going to see Gorbachev.

"I think we may speak of progress at the talks," Shevardnadze said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bezzmertnykh told Tass, the Soviet news agency, the talks had a "particularly businesslike and constructive character."

Baker and Gorbachev, accompanied by close aides, met for an hour and 45 minutes, and the two then met for another two hours without aides.

After a lunch break, Baker saw Shevardnadze again. US officials said their focus was on arms control.

With the meeting running late, scheduled news conferences by Baker and Shevardnadze were delayed at least 90 minutes.

Shevardnadze and other Soviet officials have reacted positively to Bush's proposal on limiting superpower troops, tanks and non-nuclear airplanes in Europe.

Bush's proposal included limiting US and Soviet troops in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side. He proposed allowing another 30,000 Americans elsewhere.

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Japan probes fake commemorative coins

TOKYO, Feb 9, (AP): Police officials said yesterday they plan to send investigators to Europe next week to try to trace the source of bogus Japanese gold coins with a face value of \$71 million, Japan's biggest counterfeiting case ever.

A police spokesman, however, declined to reveal the investigators' destination.

Japan's Kyodo news service said the investigators would go to Switzerland, from which Japanese coin dealers had imported 103,000 gold coins, all believed to be fakes, since March 1988.

The counterfeit coins were first discovered late last month when a company tried to deposit a batch with a bank, police said. More fake coins have been found since then, including a cache discovered in the vault of the Bank of Japan, the country's central bank, the New York Times reported.

The Bank of Japan issued 10 million of the com-

memorative coins in 1986 and an additional 1 million coins the following year.



Paul Davies during an interview. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Weinberger predicts Gorbachev fall: Former US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger was quoted yesterday as saying Mikhail Gorbachev would not be able to remain in power beyond the end of the year unless the quality of life improved in the Soviet Union.

Weinberger also told the London-based Lebanese newspaper Al Hayat he believed massive US military cuts would be premature at his stage.

The interview, appearing in Arabic, quoted Weinberger as saying he believed Gorbachev would not be able to last beyond the end of the year unless there were radical changes in Soviet life and the Soviet Union could afford to feed its people. (Reuter)

Prelude to German reunification: West Germany's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher proposed yesterday that as a prelude to unification the two German states renounce atomic, chemical and biological weapons and guarantee the security of their neighbours' borders.

The issue of German reunification has moved to the forefront of European concern, and West Germany is trying to dismiss fears that a united Germany would endanger the rest of Europe.

In Bonn, meanwhile, a senior West German government official said the situation in East Germany was becoming so critical that the state could face insolvency in days.

The West German government may be forced to give East Germany billions of marks (dollars) in aid to try to salvage the country's collapsing economy, the official said, adding, "the situation cannot be overestimated."

The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, also said state authority was eroding so rapidly there were doubts it could hold on until multiparty elections on March 18. (AP)

France supports German reunification: French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said in an interview published yesterday that France does not oppose the reunification of Germany but is against a neutral Germany, which he said would lead to European instability.

"France has recalled that the reunification of the German people is a right," the conservative Paris newspaper Le Figaro quoted Dumas as saying. "It is not going back on that."

The concern of the French government, he said, is the future. To prepare for it, all the problems posed by the present changes in the East must be examined, "notably those involving European security." (AP)

Kremlin extends hand to rebel Lithuanians: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev offered an olive branch to Lithuania's rebel communists and renewed appeals not to break ranks with their Moscow comrades.

"The doors are open, party comradeship has been declared and a hand extended," he said in remarks published yesterday.

Gorbachev, addressing this week's key Central Committee meeting which abandoned the party's monopoly of power, also repeated charges that the Lithuanians failed to understand the implications of the decision to create

Interior Ministry to modernise police force

Joint operation protecting territorial waters

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): Interior Ministry undersecretary Major-General Yousef Badr Al Khorafi said the concerned authorities were currently working on a project for modernisation of the Kuwaiti passport and another on organisation of the police force.

Interviewed by Kuna, Badr said a

committee set up for the purpose was on the modernisation of the Kuwaiti passport to meet international and Gulf Co-operation Council specifications. He revealed that the committee was considering linking the new specifications with computerised system of the ministry in all the coun-

try's outlets.

Badr said the ministry had submitted to the concerned authorities a draft resolution on organisation of the police force to realise discipline, secure the internal front and maintain communal law and order.

Asked on the ministry's efforts on

combating drugs, Badr said security authorities were doing their utmost in this concern in collaboration with the customs administration and the Ministry of Health and Justice.

He said there was close co-operation between the Interior Ministry, Defence

Ministry and the customs administration on infiltration and smuggling control.

Badr said a joint operation room from the ministry's Coast Guards and the Defence Ministry's navy force was undertaking protection of Kuwait's territorial waters.

Human rights commission

Kuwait calls to cut SA links

GENEVA, Feb 9, (Kuna): Kuwait has called upon the developed countries which have large-scale economic relations with South Africa to discontinue and curtail such links as that support was a "support for the policy of apartheid."

Addressing the 46th session of the Commission of Human Rights, H.E. Salem Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Ambassador of Kuwait, observed that continued relations between some of the developed countries and the transnational corporations had helped the racist regime to persist in its policy of apartheid.

"These relations represent narrow egoist interest and therefore need to be condemned and deplored — especially when some of the champions of civilisation and progress and those who advocate human rights and principles ... support the racist regime in South Africa," the ambassador said.

The government of Pretoria, he pointed out, still lives in the myth of racial superiority, which has been condemned by science, religions, and international consciousness because of the nefarious influence it has on human rights.

Kuwait strongly supports the struggle of the people of South Africa until they obtain their humanitarian and fundamental rights, he added.

While welcoming the recent statements by President Frederik W. de Klerk regarding the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, Sheikh Salem called for his release at the "soonest opportunity." "He is the one who has struggled, suffered and languished in prison."

The Kuwaiti delegate also called for an end to the state of emergency in South Africa and release of all political prisoners.

With regard to the co-ordination and co-operation "in all fields" between South Africa and the racist Zionist regime of Israel, the Kuwaiti ambassador pointed out that the bilateral co-operation between these two regimes presented "a dangerous axis in international relations."

These two regimes are two faces of the same coin," he said.

Expressing support to the recommendations contained in the report of the ad hoc committee of experts on violations of human rights in South Africa, the ambassador called for effective international steps through political and economic sanctions to end apartheid.

He added that events in South Africa as manifest in the numerous demonstrations expressed the indignation of the majority of the people and this also placed a responsibility of the international community to prevent further deterioration of the situation.



Migratory birds in Kuwait

Birds have been migrating since time immemorial and yet the migratory phenomena is complex in its manner to enable birds to find and exploit the best opportunities for breeding and wintering. Kuwait even though it has been known to be a desert has its share of migratory birds.

Suleibkhatai Bay is a shallow, tidal-dominated mudflat area bordered by a sandy beach, accumulated through sedimentation from the north, and the salt deposits that form the shallow mudflats originating from the Shatt Al Arab in Iraq.

The richness of various species of fauna attracts migratory birds to spend some or all winter. Thus, migratory birds do breed in Kuwait during ideal conditions of the year. Suleibkhatai Bay is thus

strategically important to Arabian wintering birds.

However, until recently, the bay had remained relatively free of large-scale human disturbances. Unfortunately, this scenario is rapidly changing due to the accelerating pace of massive engineering projects that are being developed in the area. Specifically, power station wastes pose a serious long-term threat to such habitats on bird life.

The bird population of Kuwait is indeed a part of our natural world and it will indeed be a pity if we do not strictly become conservationists in this respect.

World-wide the momentum to conserve and protect wildlife and bird-life and other forms of species which are now on the verge of extinction have been vigorously pursued — even at the risk of human life.

Aural-oral skills programme at IBS

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): The English Language Unit (ELU) of the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) launches its new "Improving Aural-Oral Skills Programme" on Feb 10, 1990, and IBS release said today.

The programme is offered in twenty-seven hours over a three week period. It is designed to help participants overcome very specific speech difficulties that usually impede effective communication.

In general, the programme emphasises both the listening and speaking skills, and audio visual educational aid and equipment.

Singer star De Burgh goes solo in Dubai

INTERNATIONAL singing star Chris de Burgh is on his way to the Gulf to give a rare solo performance later this month.

The man who had a massive hit with "The Lady in Red" will be the star attraction at a gala night to mark the Emirates Airline Desert Classic golf tournament in Dubai.

He will take the stage inside a giant marquee at the Emirates Golf Club on February 20 to present the other side of a musician who is in demand around the world.

Normally, De Burgh plays to crowds of thousands, with full musical backing and vocal support.

This time he will be appearing before an audience of 250, with only an acoustic guitar and a piano for company.

His appearance in Dubai is a musical coup for Karl Litten Overseas, organisers of the concert and the Desert Classic. It will be only the third time that he has performed alone since his professional career soared with hits like "Don't Pay the Ferryman" and "High on Emotion."

His other two solo performances in recent times both took place last year — in Birmingham, England at a function to mark the Ryder Cup match between Europe and America, and at a charity golf tournament in the Isle of Man sponsored by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE minister of defence.

Encourage merger of GCC banks: Hamr

Banks in UAE buoyant

THE governor of the United Arab Emirates' Central Bank, Abdullah Al Hamr has called on GCC countries to encourage the merger of GCC banks with the objective of countering the mammoth banking networks instituted in the international financial markets.

In an interview with a local daily, Hamr said that a GCC bank merger will significantly contribute to the setting up of the GCC joint market and eventually establish a monetary federation among the GCC member states.

Meanwhile, the official denied that the UAE's dirham has been devalued in relation to major world currencies. Contrary to these rumours, the official said that the national currency had realised significant hikes during 1989 which are estimated at 12 per cent against the sterling, 15 per cent against the Japanese yen, 2.6 per cent against the Swiss franc and 3.7 per cent against the Kuwaiti dinar.

He said that firm measures adopted by the Central Bank of the UAE during the period 1982-1986 achieved the merger of three banks in Duha and in Abu Dhabi, a financial crisis in the UAE's three commercial banks had been averted.

He disclosed that the economic recovery witnessed by the UAE since the second half of 1986 had enabled the banks to settle a lot of suspended debts

and bring about financial stability and give a boost to economic activities and increased turnover in business. He forecast substantial profits for national banks for the year ended 1989.

Meanwhile, the governor said that the gross national product (GNP) of the UAE has realised a hike during 1989 and accounted for UAE Db 106 billion compared to 89 billion in 1988.

He stressed the Central Bank will practise firm control on activities of commercial banks in United Arab Emirates in order to curb any excesses in extending loans and facilities.

He called on the foreign real estate investors who would like to do business in this sector in the UAE to familiarise themselves with the regulations governing this sector. He specifically pointed out that every emirate has its own regulations in this connection.

Replies to a question, the official said that the free industrial zone at Jabel Ali had witnessed significant activities during the last few years and this provides support to the non-oil activities of the country.

He said that 250 industrial and commercial companies were working in the zone with a total investment of about \$600 millions and 12,000 workers.

The authorities of the free zone had issued about 73 licences in 1989 and national companies

Spectacular results

Paper praises UAE health achievements

ABU DHABI, Feb 9, (Kuna): A United Arab Emirates (UAE) English language daily today praised the country's achievements in providing medical care to its people.

"It is not an easy task to give full health cover to all (its citizens), some of them living in remote areas, but the UAE has done it showing spectacular results," the Dubai-based Khaliji Times said in an editorial.

The paper was commenting on a recent Health Ministry report that life expectancy had reached over 70 years and infant mortality rate had fallen to 10.8 per cent per thousand or the fourth lowest in the world.

Nominal

"Over the past two decades the rapid socio-economic growth has helped the UAE achieve healthy results," the paper said.

It pointed to the easy access to health and medical facilities, provision of basic health needs, safe drinking water, clean air and surroundings.

"It should be noted that the UAE is one of the very few countries to provide health care and excellent medical facilities to its people at a nominal cost," the paper said.

It also urged for efforts to make people more health conscious by combatting the effects of a sedate life, overnutrition and smoking and said this coupled with better medical facilities "will further increase the life expectancy of all those living here."

Search on for missing three

AN extensive search is ongoing for three Jordanian men who were lost in the Gulf waters 20 days ago after they left Failaka Island on what was to be a fishing trip.

The trio comprise two brothers and their brother-in-law who live at Failaka Island. The father of the brothers said that the three do not have adequate provisions and their supply of drinking water is only sufficient for a few hours.

The distraught father said that the coastguard has been notified, as also authorities in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran.

The Iranian consul in Kuwait told him that he had contacted Iranian authorities on making enquiries, but so far there were no positive indicators.

The other authorities have reassured him that intensive efforts to locate the boat and its crew are being undertaken.

Action Line

WE OFTEN hear about Third World countries. Considering Europe, America and other developed countries as First World, could you tell me if there are any Second World countries. What is the criteria for this classification?

Eng. J.H. Shah

THE criteria is development. The developed, industrialised countries like the US, Japan and European countries are considered as the First World; the developing states are slotted as the Third World. Wealthy countries, for instance Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, fall under the Second World category. Such countries have the money but are yet to reach the technological level of the First World.

I WORK in a ministry, drawing a salary of KD300. Am I allowed to bring my wife on a dependent visa or a visit visa? What are the rules for obtaining a dependent visa and a visit visa? What is the salary limit for applying a dependent visa and a visit?

George

THE salary requirement to apply for a dependent visa is KD450 in the public sector and KD650 in the private sector. There is no hard and fast rule about salary requirement to apply for a visit visa. Immigration rules say that a sponsor's salary "must be suitable to cover a visitor's expenses while he/she is in Kuwait." Only the immigration officials can determine the amount that can be considered "suitable."

If a person qualifies under the salary requirements, he can sponsor his wife by submitting an application along with a recent salary certificate, a copy of his wife's passport, two photographs and a duly completed application form. The authorities reserve the right to accept or reject an application.

For a visit visa, in addition to the above documents, a sponsor must submit documentary evidence of relationship.

MY WIFE is on visa No. 20. Her Civil ID card carries the address of her sponsor, which is in another area. She lives with me. Should she change the address on her Civil ID card?

M.G. Ishrat

AS SHE came through the Kuwaiti sponsor, the Civil ID card must bear the address of the sponsor. There is no way to change the address on the Civil ID card. The sponsor's name must be mentioned. You can try to change — through the sponsor, if he agrees to make the necessary alterations.

According to the immigration law, she does not have the right to stay outside the sponsor's house, who is responsible for any domestic he brings to the country.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1976 on a dependent visa. In March 1989, I had my residence transferred to a No. 18. Within 10 months, there were some problems in the company, and the office was closed for a week. It's now three months and it has not reopened, and there is no news from the sponsor. Is it possible for me to change my residence at this stage as I have been staying in Kuwait for 14 years.

Norman

FOR 13 years, you stayed on a dependent visa. This is not taken into account while considering your application for a change of residence. A foreigner must be on a No. 18 visa and should have stayed for 10 years in the country to be eligible to seek a change of residence. This does not apply in your case. Therefore, you are not eligible for a change of residence.

AS THE business in Kuwait is not flourishing, I have been advised to start a business in Dubai. Is it possible to obtain a working visa for Dubai? I would like to go there with a reputed company, or start my own business. What is the procedure of obtaining a visa for Dubai?

M.K. Yakub

IF YOU want to work in Dubai, you must first find an employer who is willing to sponsor you. If you find employment, then the sponsor will issue a visa which would enable you to work in that country. And it is possible to obtain a work visa if you find work in that country. As far as a business is concerned, you must find a partner, a UAE national and go into business with him, likely to do in Kuwait.

I AM an Indian. I would like to change my profession from a driver to a domestic helper, with my boss's permission. Is it true that I have to wait until my residence expires to change my profession as a driver, without leaving the country?

If my boss applies for a new visa, and cancels my residency, how long could I stay here?

Is there any possibility that the ministry might refuse a visa for a second driver for the same sponsor?

After cancelling my residency, if the ministry refuses to issue a visa, what would happen to me?

A. Pandian

THE PROFESSION on a passport can be changed only by your embassy. To do this, you first go to your embassy and apply for a change of profession in the passport. After this has been done, approach the immigration department, with an application from your sponsor, to make the necessary changes. Whether the profession can be changed on the residence papers depends on the ministry; you must go to the ministry and find out if they will do it now or at the time of renewing your residence.

After a visa is cancelled, usually a month's grace period is given, within which the person must leave the country.

The ministry reserves the right to accept or reject an application. Therefore, this, upto the immigration department, who will determine, through a complicated process, whether or not the sponsor requires another driver.

If your visa is cancelled, and a second visa is not issued, you will have to go back. You can't stay here without a residence permit.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel 4847495.

This is to inform everyone that Gloria Ashwell is 40 today.

(Please keep this a secret!)

Science club visited

A delegation of some members to the second conference of Arab Aviation Culture paid a visit to the Kuwait Science Club recently.

The delegation toured the different departments of the club and listened to explanations from the secretary-general of the club Dawoud Al Ahmed.

The head of the visiting delegation and the chairman of the International Organisation for Aviation Culture Kamal Najeeb expressed admiration on the progress realised by the club. Picture shows aviation delegates with some members of the science club.

J.W. J.S.

Mixed reaction to ban on second-hand car imports

Move will raise prices: dealers

THE recent decision by the minister of commerce to prohibit the import of second-hand cars manufactured two years ago besides the year of manufacture has been received with mixed reactions.

Some praised the decision claiming that it will organise the local trading of cars while others said it will benefit only car agencies and harm the interests of automobile offices that have mushroomed in the country during the last few years.

The decision will be reflected in an increase in price of second-hand cars

and will primarily affect the low income group a section of the people said. However, others welcomed it as a good step which will encourage people to maintain their cars, thereby having a positive effect on the environment.

A broker at the second-hand cars market (haraj) Abdulla Al Riyahi said that the decision has not yet taken effect at the haraj, but believed that it will reflect in an increase in prices in coming three months.

He added that there is a large number of cars imported by private automobile offices including cars

imported by agencies and it will be about two years before their stock can be sold. However, he added that car offices, by importing a large number of cars have adversely affected sales at the haraj.

Protection

Mohammed Abu Jibara, a dealer said that the decision will serve the interests of car agents, brokers and people who want to sell their old cars. However, the decision also protects purchasers from commercial cheating because cars imported by car offices do not meet with Gulf technical specifications.

Headed that very often it has been observed that these cars are re-built and do not give adequate service and also are the cause of pollution.

A local daily said that prices of second-hand cars will double, negatively affecting the low income group. A careful observer said that the decision puts an end to the happiness of public servants on the increase in social allowance granted by HH the Amir.

A director of a cars office, Abdulla Ibrahim has called on relevant auth-

orities to revise the decision. He said that the decision has come as a surprise to citizens, expatriates and car importers. He cited the case where a car offered for sale at KD6,000 was quoted at KD7,000 the very next day after the issuance of the decision.

Specifications

Meanwhile, two directors at automobile agencies rejected the findings of the decisions of those who claim that it will increase sales of car agencies and cause an increase in prices. They commented that the decision will mainly serve consumers because it will

ensure the import of cars meet the GCC technical specifications.

The decision will also reduce traffic congestion because it will reduce damage in cars at roads. The customers of new cars are different than customers of second-hand cars which means that sales of the car agencies will remain the same. They added that GCC technical specifications are being applied to cars imported by the official agencies only but private importers are allowed to import any model of cars without meeting specifications.

They called for protecting agents against the invasion of private importers at the cars market in Kuwait. One of them added that many substandard cars were imported by these offices. Some American second-hand cars used to be police patrol cars before being imported by these offices. These patrols were painted and exported to Kuwait. It is known that police patrol cars are barged around more than normal, he said. He added that some imported cars were stolen from their owners in USA and imported by Kuwaiti car offices.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet cable

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): The Amir has received a cable of congratulations on the 20th anniversary of inception of the Organisation of Islamic Conference from the Soviet President.

His Highness sent a reply cable in the name of the OIC thanking the Soviet leadership.

Tunis relief

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Air Force transport planes continued last week transporting relief aid at the government's decision and under HH the Amir's instructions to help the victims of the recent rain storm and flooding in Tunisia.

More relief aid will be sent over the few coming days.

Ghezali leaves

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghezali left here yesterday concluding an official three-day visit to Kuwait.

The visit came at the invitation of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

He was seen off at the airport by Staff Minister for Service Affairs Issa Al Mazidi, Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shaihi and senior Kuwaiti officials.

Jassar returns

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): The Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ahmad Al Jassar returned home yesterday evening after he had represented HH the Amir in the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the Organisation of Islamic Conference held in Jeddah on Wednesday.

Jassar had delivered Kuwait's speech on the occasion on behalf of HH the Amir in the 20th anniversary of the League session



Visit to Kuna

Sudan's Ambassador to Kuwait Abdul Sana Farah Thursday visited the Kuwait News Agency headquarters and met with Kuna's Board Chairman and Director General Bargas Hamoud Al Bargas. During the visit, the ambassador was accompanied by Director-General of Sudan News Agency Mohamed Kholal Salohi who is on a visit to Kuwait within a tour of the Arabian Gulf region. The two sides discussed information relations between the two Arab agencies.

From the courts

Jail term, fine for hashish smuggler

A MAN was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment, a fine of KD15,000 and ordered to be deported from the country for trying to smuggle hashish into the country.

The court was told that the accused had arrived from Pakistan via a Kuwait Airways flight. The customs officer's suspicions having been aroused, the suspect's only bag was torn apart and around 5-kilogrammes of hashish was recovered.

Thief gets one month

A MAN was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation on being convicted of theft.

The court was told that the accused had previously stolen the key of the cash box of a shop and the owner finding the key and some money missing had intimated the police. Detectives successfully arrested the accused and recovered the key and the stolen funds.

Alleged racketeer released

The court ordered the release of a man accused of using his position in a company to bring in labourers into the country in exchange for money.

The accused told the court that though he had recruited labourers, he had at no time done this in exchange for money.

His statement was substantiated by five workers who had arrived in the country.

3 years RI for car thief

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to three years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation on charges of stealing a car, along with stealing valuables from a number of automobiles.

Police had arrested a man identified as Abdul Aziz who was found driving a stolen car. However, he claimed that he had purchased it from the defendant identified as Abdu.

Investigations revealed that the defendant had indeed stolen the car and was also involved in a string of thefts from parked automobiles.

Traffic accidents

A TOTAL of 500 traffic accidents were reported in the five governorates from Jan 28 until Feb 3, 1990. Hawalli and Farwaniya registered 87 accidents, with 173 in the Capital, 110 in Ahmadi and 30 in Jahra. There were 83 injuries and six deaths.

Weather

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with moderate southeasterly wind with a chance of scattered rain. State of sea: Moderate. High water: 10 pm, 12.00 pm. Low water: 7.00 am, 7.00 pm. Sunrise: 6.32 am. Sunset: 5.30 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 21°C/10°F. Al-Ahmadi: 17°C/63°F. Farwali: 18°C/64°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 9°C/48°F. Al-Ahmadi: 7°C/47°F. Farwali: 12°C/54°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 19°C/66°F. Al-Ahmadi: 17°C/63°F. Farwali: 17°C/63°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 82 per cent. Al-Ahmadi: 86 per cent. Farwali: 83 per cent.

Petrochem marketing conference March 10-11

THE second conference for the marketing of petrochemical products and fertilisers for GCC states will be held in Manama from March 10-11, 1990.

Mustafa Al Sayed the general director of the Gulf Company for Petrochemical Industries and head of the conference organising committee stated that the conference aims at upgrading the level of co-operation among petrochemicals users in the area.

He explained that the conference will discuss several work papers on export operations to international markets and the feasibility of investment in establishing modern and future transportation facilities in this field. The conference will also view the aspects of investing in transformation industries for crude petrochemicals.

Sayed indicated that nearly 300 members will attend the conference in addition to a number of guests from other Arab states. The conference will include a discussion session on sea and land transportation and the role played by concerned authorities in facilitating transport of petrochemical products.

Two scientific sessions are due to be held during the first day and will focus on the international point of view of the AIDS disease.

During the second day, the morning session will debate latest medical researches and the evening session will discuss on the pathological symptoms and remedial aspects. On the third day, the conference will discuss two important topics, the first will centre on developments relating to finding necessary preventive vaccines, while the second will focus on the moral and legislative aspects of the AIDS disease.

Over and above, the official said, a seminar will be organised at 6:00 pm on the third day and will be opened to the public. The seminar will be chaired by the Minister of Planning and Acting Minister of Public Health, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

The seminar will be attended by Dr. Mohammed Helmi from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr. Malek Al Badri from Sudan, Dr. Khaled Al Mazour, a professor at Islamic Sbaria Faculty of Kuwait University and Dr. Hussain Al Moemen, head of Health Awareness Department at Kuwait Ministry of Public Health.

The three-day meeting tackled several issues of concern to children in the Mena region such as plans and priorities for Universal Child Immunisation (UCI). A press release issued here today, explained that UCI was developed to help countries which have not yet achieved the United Nations goal for immunising 80 per cent of their children against six killer diseases by the end of 1990.

He has already arrived in Bahrain and will participate at Mefex 90, the sixth Middle East Food and Equipment Show which takes place at Bahrain's Exhibition Centre from Feb 10 to 13.

The show incorporates the prestigious salon culinaire, a competition showcase for professionals in the culinary industry. The competition is sponsored by the Aus-

tralian Meat & Livestock Corporation (AMLC).

Ralph will discuss and demonstrate butchering techniques at the show where more than 300 food companies from over 30 countries are participating. Mefex 90 will have 14 official national groups taking part. Besides these official groups, several companies are coming together from other countries.

Ralph's visit to Bahrain, Dubai and Kuwait is sponsored by AMLC's Middle East office as part of a programme to help

with introducing new merchandising methods at outlets selling Australian meat.

During his stay he will discuss butchering techniques with caterers and retailers and also demonstrate butchering methods to students at Bahrain's catering college.

On Ralph's itinerary are visits to a number of supermarkets and slaughterhouses and butchering operations in three countries.

Ralph's education is related to his occupation. He has attended various technical colleges and training institutes to learn about the management of livestock and butchering. He has also obtained a

degree in applied science agriculture. He worked in a number of establishments dealing with animal husbandry before joining the Authority for Uniform Specification of Meat & Livestock Australia, the nation's meat-quality-assurance group.

Ralph's job with Aus-meat requires that he provides wholehearted assistance to the meat and livestock industry at all times. He is looking forward to doing just that during his visit to the Gulf.

"There is always a lot to learn in travel and the exchange of ideas," he says.

Blazer issue flares further

Students threatened with expulsion

By Fatima Ahmed

Arab Times staff

THE management of the Kuwait English School (KES) has said that they will "expel" any student who does not turn up in blazers on Saturday morning. Parents were told by KES principal Mrs Rhoda Muhammed, at a parent-management meeting on Thursday, that a total of 18 AIDS cases had been recorded in Kuwait so far.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the International Committee of the conference Dr Hussain Al Moemen said that a total of 18 AIDS cases had been recorded in Kuwait so far.

An official source at Kuwait's Ministry of Health (MOH) said that the Kuwait's Central Blood Bank is still registering those who would like to attend the sessions and seminars to be held on the sidelines of the third conference which is organised by the MOH in co-operation with Kuwait University, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (Kfas) and the Regional Bureau of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for Mediterranean Countries.

The source landed the enthusiasm of physicians, technicians and employees of the Ministry of Health to attend the conference's sessions and seminars in addition to the enthusiasm evidenced by the employees working at the private medical services and students of Kuwait University as well as members of the welfare societies.

He said that the closing date of registration at the premises of the Central Blood Bank will expire at 8:00 pm today while registration at Sheraton Hotel will continue till 8:00 pm on Sunday 11.2.1990.

The inauguration ceremony of the conference will take place at Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on Monday, 12.2.1990 at 9:00 am.

About 1,000 people from abroad, including various officials of various ministries and institutions will participate, including 16 well-known international physicians who will be presenting relevant research papers.

Two scientific sessions are due to be held during the first day and will focus on the international point of view of the AIDS disease. During the second day, the morning session will debate latest medical researches and the evening session will discuss on the pathological symptoms and remedial aspects. On the third day, the conference will discuss two important topics, the first will centre on developments relating to finding necessary preventive vaccines, while the second will focus on the moral and legislative aspects of the AIDS disease.

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Carrier pigeons contests are new in Kuwait and it is linked with pigeon breeders who gather to form a union. Kuwait youths came to know the character of carrier pigeons through travelling. They bought famous pigeons from Egypt, Germany, England, Poland, Holland and Iraq. The first Kuwaiti who took the hobby of carrier pigeon breeding and made it more popular in Kuwait is Khaled Hmoud Al Harari who currently owns 20 pairs of carrier pigeons according to organisers.

Bader Al Sanai, a breeder who has won the first and second places during the Jan 6, 1990 contest said that he first bought some carrier pigeons from Kuwait Friday Market but, was disappointed to find that they don't have speed and accuracy.

After reading about this hobby in an English magazine, he travelled to England and bought 4 pairs of well-known carrier pigeons for KD1200. He indicated that he had obtained special certificates for these pigeons from the British Union for Carrier Pigeon Breeders.

He added that he had never used these pigeons in contests in order to avoid losing them, instead he used them for breeding purposes. Training of carrier pigeons starts when pigeons are 6-12 weeks old during which they are trained for short distances. Training develops when they reach the age of 12-18 weeks on distances ranging between 50-200 kilometres.

Australian master butcher to tour three Gulf states

AUSTRAlian meat butcher, Andrew Ralph, will visit three Gulf countries for one month to demonstrate techniques to local butchers and catering establishments.

He has already arrived in Bahrain and will participate at Mefex 90, the sixth Middle East Food and Equipment Show which takes place at Bahrain's Exhibition Centre from Feb 10 to 13.

The show incorporates the prestigious salon culinaire, a competition showcase for professionals in the culinary industry. The competition is sponsored by the Aus-

tralian Meat & Livestock Corporation (AMLC).

Ralph will discuss and demonstrate butchering techniques at the show where more than 300 food companies from over 30 countries are participating. Mefex 90 will have 14 official national groups taking part. Besides these official groups, several companies are coming together from other countries.

Ralph's visit to Bahrain, Dubai and Kuwait is sponsored by AMLC's Middle East office as part of a programme to help

with introducing new merchandising methods at outlets selling Australian meat.

During his stay he will discuss butchering techniques with caterers and retailers and also demonstrate butchering methods to students at Bahrain's catering college.

On Ralph's itinerary are visits to a number of supermarkets and slaughterhouses and butchering operations in three countries.

Ralph's education is related to his occupation. He has attended various technical colleges and training institutes to learn about the management of livestock and butchering. He has also obtained a

degree in applied science agriculture. He worked in a number of establishments dealing with animal husbandry before joining the Authority for Uniform Specification of Meat & Livestock Australia, the nation's meat-quality-assurance group.

Ralph's job with Aus-meat requires that he provides wholehearted assistance to the meat and livestock industry at all times. He is looking forward to doing just that during his visit to the Gulf.

"There is always a lot to learn in travel and the exchange of ideas," he says.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NOTHING can harm a good man, either in life or death
— Socrates, Greek philosopher (469 BC - 399 BC).

Emphasis on self-reliance

Africa studying political reforms

NAIROBI, (Reuters): While few African countries seem inclined towards political reforms, those in Eastern Europe, they are exploring ways to give their people more say in shaping their lives.

The case for a more democratic approach to social and economic development will top the agenda at an international conference in Arusha, Tanzania, from February 12 to 16.

"The conference will tackle one of the central issues in Africa's current economic crisis, the need for greater self-reliance as well as the necessity to democratise the recovery and development process," the United Nations declared.

The conference, convened under the theme Popular Participation in Development, is a joint project by UN agencies, non-governmental development organisations in Africa and abroad, and African governments.

Delegates are expected to range from foreign donors to African officials and representatives of grass-roots, women's and youth organisations, as well as trade unions.

Calls to promote "people's participation" have gained ground gradually since a similar, UN-sponsored conference in Abuja, Nigeria, in 1987. A follow-up conference two years ago in the Sudanese capital Khartoum delivered the message bluntly:

"The political context for promoting healthy human development has been marred for more than two decades by instability, war, intolerance, restrictions on the freedom of individuals and groups as well as overconcentration of power," it declared.

Constraints

These constraints, said the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), undermined people's motivation and productivity, and public accountability.

"This is one important sense in which Africa needs more democratic political structures in order to facilitate development," it added.

African leaders, at their annual summit last July, approved in principle a blueprint for recovery prepared by the ECA which declared: "Development has to be engineered and sustained by the people themselves through their full and active participation."

The Arusha conference, like those in Abuja and Khartoum, was arranged to monitor implementation of a five year development programme hammered out in 1986 by African officials and the international community.

The UN programme of action for African economic recovery and development envisaged investment needs of \$128 billion, nearly two-thirds to be mobilised by African countries themselves, and enshrined a goal of self-reliance.

This goal appears to have taken on added importance as a result of the political changes sweeping Eastern Europe.

These, World Bank President Barber Conable predicted this month, would make it harder than ever for Third World countries to compete for foreign investment.

Warning

His warning followed that of French Development Minister Jacques Pelletier that African countries would remain poor and backward unless they followed Eastern Europe's lead in embracing democratic reforms.

"Africa... its peoples and its leaders must draw inspiration from the winds of change that we have seen triumph in the East," Pelletier said.

Aid alone was not the key, he said. "Financial stabilisation, the fight against corruption at all levels, economic renewal, the building of states based on the rule of law: this does not depend on foreign aid."

Pope John Paul, during a visit to West Africa last month, also weighed in with a veiled reference to authoritarian African governments, saying development should take place openly and democratically.

Only days earlier Gabon's President Omar Bongo said he did not believe African countries would follow East Europe and move towards multi-party systems.

He said he did not expect African countries, many of which have one-party rule, to be surprised by changes in the way East European governments were.

Among African countries prepared to gamble, Algeria has found itself walking a tightrope between democracy and turmoil as rapid liberalisation spawned a flowering of new political parties and social unrest.

Reforms

President Chadli Benjedid is pressing on with economic reforms and unprecedented multi-party elections, radically transforming his country, which was a one-party state just five months ago.

Chad's President Yoweri Museveni had promised to return the country to elected constitutional government this month. But he persuaded its interim Parliament to extend his mandate for another five years in order to finish drafting a constitution and implement key development projects delayed by civil strife.

Publicly, he remains committed to achieving popular constitutional rule and urged African countries recently to embrace democracy, saying: "Reforms to ensure democracy in Africa are important. We must have these reforms to morally qualify to criticise South Africa."

There, President F.W. de Klerk has promised to build what he called a new South Africa giving the five-to-one black majority equal political rights and equal opportunities with whites.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1495 — Sir William Stanley, King Henry VII's Lord Chamberlain, is executed in England.

1567 — Henry Darnley, consort of Mary Queen of Scots, is murdered.

1763 — France cedes Canada to England as Treaty of Paris is signed, ending French and Indian war.

1811 — Russians take Belgrade and capture Turkish army.

1817 — Britain, Prussia, Austria and Russia agree to first reduction of occupation forces in France.

1828 — Simon Bolivar, South American revolutionary, becomes ruler of Colombia.

1846 — British forces under Hugh Gough defeat Sikhs at Sobhaban, India.

1848 — Constitution in Naples is proclaimed by Ferdinand I.

1878 — By Convention of El Zanjou, ending ten years' war, Spain promises reforms in Cuba.

1939 — Japanese forces occupy Hainan Island, China.

1943 — Britain's Eighth Army reaches Tunisian border in World War II.

1961 — United States relinquishes rights to many defense bases in West Indies.

1969 — United States, Britain and France reject German restrictions on travel to West Berlin, and remind Soviets of their responsibility to ensure free access.

1974 — Iraq claims that 70 Iranians were killed or wounded in border clash between Iraqi and Iranian troops.

1988 — Dissident boneid army officers oust Bopbuthawana president Lucas Mansope.

1989 — Jet plane chartered by United Nations arrives in Kabul, Afghanistan, with wheat and dried milk to help feed needy.

BONN, (Reuters): Chancellor Helmut Kohl is taking the biggest gamble of his political life by rushing towards German unity as fast as possible.

The West German leader, who until recently was preaching patience to East Germans demanding a single state, has decided the threat of collapse across the border is worse than the problems that unity will bring.

He also sees his own re-election in December depends on how he manages the hasty marriage of one of the world's wealthiest and most orderly states with a poorer and increasingly chaotic cousin.

Kohl overrode his fiercely independent central bank, the Bundesbank, on Wednesday and decided to seek immediate monetary union with East Germany.

He believes a quick signal like introducing the strong Deutschmark into East Germany is more important than the problems that might come later.

Annoying Bonn's bold decision, Finance Minister Theo Waigel uttered a thought haunting leaders in Bonn:

"We must remain masters of the political process," he announced, sober-faced.

Master

In fact, nobody is master of the political process at the moment and the realisation of that fact has frightened both Bonn and East Berlin.

Waigel admitted as much when asked whether monetary union would be enough to stop East Germans flocking here at the rate of a small city every month:

"I don't know... it's a signal, an appeal..." he said.

Kohl's main fear is that East Germany, once the showcase economy of the communist world, will collapse so badly that it will simply fall, exhausted and anarchic, into Bonn's arms.

Committed by its constitution to reunification, Bonn will have to pay enormous sums to prop up the East German economy, help clean up years of shocking pollution of the environment and guarantee social services for the restless population.

Will this lead to inflation, the worst fear of the Germans since their money turned into worthless paper in the 1920s? Higher taxes? Will interest rates shoot up?

Events have moved so fast that nobody knows.

Waigel is due to announce next week a seven billion mark (\$4.2 billion) supplementary budget to help East Germany, the first tranche of a Bonn bailout that economists here expect to be repeated several times as the unification drama unfolds.

It will be a mammoth task if everything goes peacefully.

What nobody wants to think about is what would happen if East Germans, disorientated by the sharp winds of capitalism gusting through their homeland, break out in waves of strikes and violence.

The stakes on this side of the border are equally high.

After greeting the first refugees from the old Stalinist system with open arms last year, West Germans are now giving a cooler welcome to those coming over.

A materialistic society, they are becoming increasingly worried that unity will hit them where it hurts — in their wallets.

The comfortable middle class sees taxes rising as Bonn lays on emergency housing, unemployment benefits, training schemes and full pensions for the 2,000 East Germans arriving here each day. About 70,000 have come this year alone.

Unemployed

West Germany's two million unemployed and several other million low-paid workers see the immigrants as an open threat to their hopes for jobs, better pay or better housing.

Most new arrivals are well-qualified and hard-working, except for a small but rising number of criminal types — a problem in cities like Hamburg that have attracted many men released in a prison amnesty last December.

And since the new arrivals are fellow Germans, frustrated West Germans can hardly vent their anger with racism outbursts like the "Turks out" calls heard at neo-Nazi meetings.

Oskar Lafontaine, front-runner to lead the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) against Kohl, showed these fears were a potent campaign issue when he won a landslide re-election in his Saar state in last January.

While Kohl's centre-right coalition is still tipped to win by a small margin in December, any unrest along the way towards the Germans' long-held dream could turn out of office the man who failed to realise it.

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1990

Letters to the editor

Self-help scheme

SIR: This is in reference to a letter published in your newspaper dated Feb 5, 1990.

Two letters of criticism have been published in your newspaper regarding a proposal of PPC Kuwait president. Being a member of this club would like to clarify the following:

1. Although Noor has been out of the country for a long time we feel proud that he has not forgotten his country or the nation and he has always tried to serve the nation in one way or the other.

2. He gave his proposal at a meeting of representatives of different organisations but not at a general meeting, as all our (Pakistan) organisations claim to be welfare ones. His proposal was just a way to fulfil that purpose.

3. The proposal was to start a self-help programme and not an appeal to other nations to help the poor Pakistanis and I believe the fact that all the nations regardless of developed, underdeveloped or under-level poverty do have welfare programme both organised by the government or privately.

4. As regards the permission, he gave his proposal at a meeting of different organisations. He put forward his opinion that all of us can work together to serve the nation. It was to get the permission and a call as well, to join us in the best interest of the nation.

5. Clarification to the questions like Is it an international campaign? Who will control it? How and to whom will the funds go? What is the target? and many other such questions, I do not think that letters to the editor column is a proper place to decide such matters. Therefore, please come forward and join us to play an effective role to decide such matters.

6. Who is the poor or the needy or the deserving surely Nawaz Sharif or Bhutto or Haroon families are not. When you start to do something there are many ways to know the poor and needy, even we can make some criteria:

7. My brother, we respect this criticism because difference of opinion is the basic root of the democracy which we want to make strong, but please do at least little more than personal criticism.

8. PPC president gave a proposal for something good but you just criticised him. Let him decide who wants the cheap publicity. At the end, I would request the PPC president to establish a public welfare section within the People's Club at the earliest which should be open to all Pakistani nationals regardless of their political alignment to contribute or serve and its accounts should be audited annually.

Ashraf Anjum,
member PP Club.



Gorbachev (L) talking to party members. (Reuters wirephoto)

Political struggle seen ahead

Kremlin opts for pluralism

China no to Soviet style

BEIJING, (Reuters): Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin has affirmed that China will under no circumstances follow the Soviet Union down the path of radical political reform.

Jiang made his party's resolve clear at a meeting with former US congressmen on Wednesday as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was demolishing his party's grip on power.

"There are huge social pressures which could erupt if the party loosened its grip," he said.

The Daily published China's own blueprint for reform which calls for a change in the country's eight non-communist parties under the leadership of the ruling Communist Party and its vast membership of 47 million people.

Most Chinese are only vaguely aware of what the eight non-communist parties are. Many are sceptical that they will be given any real authority.

China's official media has given muted coverage to reforms in Eastern Europe, and has so far not reported on the three-day Central Committee meeting in Moscow. Many people, especially intellectuals, are well aware of what is happening through foreign radio broadcasts.

A senior editor at the People's Daily said it did not want to comment on the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe but its policy was to report the events.

A Soviet diplomat in Beijing said there had been no immediate Chinese reaction to the Moscow events. He

said that as far as he knew the planned visit of Premier Li Peng to the Soviet Union for late April was still on.

"I see no reason why relations between the Soviet Union and China should deteriorate... since China adheres to its tenet of not interfering in another country's affairs," he said.

The two communist giants kept close tabs after the 1949 Chinese revolution but fell out over ideological and foreign policy issues in the early 1960s, a rift that was finally healed only last May with Gorbachev's visit to Beijing.

Some East European diplomats in Beijing see the two countries on the brink of another ideological rift.

For the Chinese leadership to give up power would call for circumstances completely different from those at work in Eastern Europe, a Western diplomat commented.

"It'll take events purely Chinese such as deaths of key leaders to make things happen," he said. "Whatever happens in another country doesn't necessarily set off in China."

"The system we practise of Communist Party leadership with multi-party co-operation is basically different from the multi-party and two-party systems of other countries," the People's Daily editorial said.

"It is also different from the one-party system practised by some socialist countries," it added.

One wonders as to what the motivation behind this rhetorical appeal is. Is it a fund-raising directive from "back home" for another so-called People's Programme, or a mere catchphrase so typical of the dream merchants of Pakistan People's Party.

Is Noor ready to dissolve his Pakistan People's Club, the only major political group in Kuwait, to support his rhetoric about Pakistan settling their political differences?

In the end, I strongly urge the embassy of Pakistan to clarify its position on the above-mentioned subject, and relinquish the bi-partisan political role it has been playing for a year or so. Is it too much to only expect public service from the public servants of our country?

M. Shah,
Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Stalemate has no end in sight

N'DJAMENA, Chad, (AP): Six months after Chad and Libya agreed to settle their long dispute over the disputed uranium-rich silver of land separating the two countries.

In the Aug 31 accord signed in Algiers, Chad and Libya agreed to end 16 years of hostility and reach a political settlement over the sovereignty of the Aouzou strip within one year.

The strip, part of Chad at the time of independence from France 30 years ago, was annexed by Libya in 1973.

The French office of geological and mining research reportedly detected uranium deposits in the Aouzou in 1953, but they were never exploited.

Sincerity

After three wars between Chad and Libya, officials in N'Djamena express doubts over Libya's sincerity in signing the accord, and diplomats say it is difficult to envisage a solution to the deadlock.

A weekend visit to N'Djamena by Algeria's foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazouani, appears to be an indication Algeria is trying to revive the process of reconciliation, which Algeria has been pursuing along for more than a year under the auspices of the Organization for African Unity.

MIDEAST

Call for democratic reforms in Syria

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (AP): Khalid Bekdash, the secretary-general of the Syrian Communist Party, said in an interview published today that President Hafez Assad could face difficulties if he does not implement democratic reforms and end the power monopoly of the Baath Party.

"We want to see the political regime reformed out of concern for it rather than enmity towards it. We feel concern over the unforeseen developments. We don't want reactionary forces to ride the wave of frustration," said Bekdash in an interview with a Kuwaiti daily.

The 90-year-old, interviewed in Damas-

cus, was responding to a question about

the effect of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's political reforms on Syria. Syria is a close ally of Moscow.

He spoke bitterly about the deteriorating economic situation in Syria.

"There are hundreds of thousands of people on the verge of starvation. We told this to President Assad ... but President Assad said there is poverty but not starvation."

Bekdash also called for ending arbitrary arrests.

"They arrested a member of our party after accusing him of praising the head of an Arab state. He is still in jail."

Bekdash said he wondered how Syria

could restore ties with Egypt, despite its peace treaty with Israel, while resisting reconciliation with Iraq.

Syria and Iraq are ruled by rival wings of the Arab Socialist Baath Party in the worst rift in Arab ranks.

"The differences between the two ruling parties should not prevent understanding between the two states ... as without real Arab solidarity, it will be difficult to confront Israel and imperialism," said Bekdash.

"We extended our hands to Morocco and Egypt who have relations with Israel. Why don't we extend our hands to Iraq, our historical neighbour?" he asked. Syria

restored diplomatic ties with Cairo in late 1989 after a 10-year hiatus in retaliation for its peace treaty with Israel. Morocco has contacts with Israeli figures and has been the most outspoken Arab capital after Cairo in recognising the existence of the Jewish state.

The Baath Party is the dominating political force in Syria though other political groupings as Bekdash's party are members of a so-called national front.

"We consider ourselves allies of the (Syrian) regime in its national policies of confronting Israel and imperialism but we are at odds concerning the domestic policies.

After Euphrates cut-off

Farmers steal water

AL-RUMANA, Iraq, Feb 9, (AP): An Iraqi farmer got out of bed one night recently, sneaked over to this village's main irrigation canal from the Euphrates river and dug a hole in the earthen bank to divert water into his parched fields.

He knew it was illegal and that he risked the wrath of his fellow villagers for stealing rationed communal water for his crops.

"It's dangerous and could cost me my life if the other farmers catch me ... but if I don't do this, I could lose all my winter crops," the farmer said in an interview.

He ekes out a living for his wife and two children growing potatoes, barley and vegetables on two acres (about 8,100 square metres) of desert land.

His desperation underlines the crisis facing thousands of farmers and sharecroppers along Iraq's Euphrates basin since Turkey cut off most of the Euphrates flow Jan 13 to fill up the reservoir of the huge Ataturk Dam in southeastern Anatolia province.

The 1,460 (230-kilometre) Euphrates originates in the mountains of eastern Turkey and runs through Syria and Iraq before it flows into the Gulf.

It is the lifeline for 5.5 million Iraqis, about one-third of the population. Hydroelectric dams use it to generate about half Iraq's electricity.

Despite recent rainfall, the Turkish action has reduced the Euphrates' flow by three-quarters. Iraqi authorities, warning of possible agricultural catastrophe, have ordered districts along the river to share the flow that's left.

The farmers of Rumana near the Syrian border, 300 miles (500 kilometres) west of Baghdad, are allowed to take water from the river for a few hours two days a week.

But the 60 farmers around Rumana said it is not enough to irrigate their fields and keep the desert at bay.

Some openly take water from the river, pumping it into battered tanker trucks. They argue that they're stealing from the government, not their fellow farmers.

But in their arid region, water has always been scarce and has triggered friction, and sometimes violence, between tribes and families.

The Baghdad government, fearing that the diversion of the Euphrates will exacerbate the situation, imposed rationing and sent teams of agriculture officials to the affected areas to advise farmers on how to cope with the crisis.

The Turkish diversion of the Euphrates is scheduled to end Feb 13, once the reservoir at the Ataturk Dam, centrepiece of a major irrigation project in impoverished Anatolia, is filled.

But the Iraqis and Syrians, who are probably more dependent on the Euphrates than their western neighbours, fear that when the ambitious Anatolia irrigation and hydroelectric programme is completed, the Turks will be diverting so much water that the downstream states will be permanently affected.

Baghdad has warned that the Euphrates cut-off will have grave consequences and could lead to an agricultural disaster in as many as seven Iraqi provinces.

"When all the 21 dams of the Anatolian development project are completed in 2005, the entire Euphrates river could be diverted, leaving the downstream region an arid plain," Adel Khajaji, head of reclamation development at Iraq's agriculture and water reservation centre told the Associated Press.

Baghdad has been pouring billions of dollars since the early 1950s into agriculture seeking to achieve self-sufficiency, an investment the government now fears is in jeopardy.

This year, despite a foreign debt of \$60-70 billion, Iraq has allocated more than 900 million dinars (about \$2.8 billion) for agricultural projects to increase food production.

The government also plans to cut down its food import bill, currently as much as \$4.5 billion.

Iraq has a population of more than 17.5 million and one of the highest birthrates in the Middle East.

Agriculture employs about 32 per cent of the population, compared with only three per cent in the oil sector, the main source of revenue.

The government has been driving to reclaim desert land and building dams to control water and increase production to restore Iraq's ancient position as the granary of the Middle East.

Efforts to turn desert wastes into productive farmland will be ruined if the Euphrates flow is reduced by half.

Baghdad does not want to sour its "workable relations" with Ankara and hopes to avoid a conflict over the Euphrates despite Turkey's refusal of Iraq's request to halve the cut-off period and work out a settlement.

But Baghdad's fears about the long-term impact of the Anatolian project has clearly caused anger and alarm that could yet sour relations.

Khajaji said Iraq cannot depend on its other main source of water, the Tigris river, to cover the loss of the Euphrates because the Tigris, which also originates in Turkey, is needed to irrigate the arable land along its course.

He said that the quality of the Tigris water diminishes as it flows south to eventually merge with the Euphrates at Al Qurna, reaped site of the Garden of Eden, because of increasing salinity and evaporation.

Sharon: Israel will talk to deportees

PLO flexible on delegation

TEL AVIV, Feb 9, (Agencies): Hawkish Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon said yesterday Israel's government had agreed to let deported Palestinians participate in proposed talks in Cairo.

Sharon's remarks came four days before his Likud Party meets for a critical debate on terms for a dialogue with Palestinians. The issue of deportees is likely to be a main point of discussion within the party.

"Jerusalem, to my shame as a Jew and a member of the government has apparently already given its consent to deportees," Sharon told the Press Club in Tel Aviv.

Sharon has challenged Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's leadership of the party, forming a strong block of opposition known as the "constraints" camp.

Sharon and his allies are expected to demand new limits on any negotiations with Palestinians. A fragile Likud-Labour coalition government could collapse if Shamir accepts conditions that Labour would be presented.

Syria yesterday urged Arab states to form a joint army to confront Israel which it said posed a great threat to the Arab world.

The official English-language Syria Times said Israeli leaders were determined to achieve a "greater Israel and occupy more Arab lands."

"The Israelis aim now at evacuating the Arab lands from their indigenous population with the aim of building settlements to absorb the influx of immigrants," the paper said.

"This is part and parcel of the Israeli schemes to continue the policy of aggression and expansion," the paper added.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was flexible on how to announce the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel, an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"The PLO has the full right to designate its delegation ... but we do not consider that formalities should form an obstacle. Besides the designation, other matters are merely a formality," Bassam Abu Sharif told Reuters in Tunis yesterday.

Diplomats in Egypt, Israel and Washington have said there is new hope that the peace talks might take place after the PLO agreed to let Egypt announce the names of the Palestinian team.

The idea is to circumvent Israel's refusal to talk to Palestinians who overtly represent the PLO.

Clashes between Israeli troops

Israel fights stones with stones

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 9, (Reuters): The Israeli army has started fighting stones with stones in its battle to quell the 26-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Military sources said yesterday the army had developed a prototype cannon capable of firing 600 egg-sized stones per minute and was using it in the Ramallah area of the West Bank.

Israeli radio said the experimental jeep-mounted cannon could fire stones up to 75 metres.

Palestinian stone-throwing accounts for nearly 90 per cent of all violence in a popular revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, military sources say.

But the Palestinians only use arm power.

The security forces have used gravel-throwers for riot control in addition to tear-gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition.

Israel responsible

JEDDAH, Feb 9, (Agencies): Hamid Al Gabid, secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, yesterday held Israel responsible for the anti-Israeli violence by Arabs including the attack on an Israeli tourist bus in Egypt.

Al Gabid told a news conference on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the OIC that the violence was inevitable because Israel was denying the Palestinians their rights.

"This denial will provoke the Palestinians to commit irrational acts," he said.

Replying to a question on the bus attack, Gabid said "the OIC condemns aggressions against unarmed civilians but is certain that Israel is responsible for any act of violence in the region by its continued denial of the Palestinians' rights."

The organisation has welcomed superpower détente saying it paved the way for a new era in international relations that lessened threats of war.

The member states welcomed with increased appreciation the positive changes in the international arena, especially in ties between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Other PLO leaders, including Salah Khalaf of Arafat's Fatah movement and Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, have denied the PLO would accept an announcement by Egypt.

Abie Nathan was freed from prison today saying he was more determined than ever to talk to Arab leaders and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

and Arab stone-throwers erupted for a third day in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday, prompting the PLO to seek international help to stop soldiers from opening fire.

■ Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan was freed from prison today saying he was more determined than ever to talk to Arab leaders and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Big Two oppose Jewish settlement

MOSCOW, Feb 9, (Agencies): The Soviet Union and the United States yesterday have expressed opposition to plans by the Israeli government to settle Jewish immigrants in occupied Arab lands.

Speaking in a press briefing on the outcome of the first day of talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his US counterpart James Baker, the Soviet official spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said "neither the Soviet Union nor the United States supports Israel's intentions of rehabilitating immigrants in the occupied Arab lands."

Gerasimov indicated that the issue of Jewish emigration was discussed by Shevardnadze and Baker after it had been raised by a Soviet expert in meetings of working groups entrusted with regional conflicts.

He defended his country's position regarding opening doors for Jews to emigrate "under the provisions of the international human rights charter to any destination."

But he asserted that the settlement of immigrants in the occupied Arab lands, as planned by Israel, is another thing and said "such a move represents flagrant violation of Article 9 of the 1949 Geneva convention."

Gerasimov said Baker had informed Shevardnadze of the US intention

of increasing the number of immigrants who will be allowed to come to the country this year by 60,000 to 70,000 including 50,000 Jews.

US Ambassador Robert Pelletreau held talks on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel with high-ranking officials of the PLO and the Arab League, sources in the Tunisian capital reported today.

Pelletreau met with Palestine Liberation Organisation official Hakim Balwai and with Arab League President Chedli Klibi as both organisations stepped up the campaign to the occupied Arab lands.

In Dubai, the government-owned Al Bayan daily urged Egypt and Iraq to deploy troops in Jordan to defend it against Israeli threats.

"Tel Aviv wants to expel Palestinians to Jordan which Israel has claimed as alternative homeland for the Palestinian people," said Al Bayan in a front-page editorial.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference called yesterday for urgent United Nations action on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"OIC believes that the settlement of Soviet Jews in Palestinian and Arab territories under Israeli occupation would impede the prospects for the political settlement of the Middle East question," said Hamid Al Gabid, secretary-general of the 46-

member group.

The Soviet ambassador to Damascus suggested that Arab nations take "active steps" against the United States to try to prevent Soviet Jews from settling in the Israeli-occupied areas, the official Syrian Arab news agency reported today.

Ambassador Alexander Zotov did not refer to the United States by name in the statement he made late Thursday to the agency.

Israel is reported to have reached an agreement with Hungary to have Soviet Jews transit by Budapest before heading to their final destination, Tel Aviv.

The weekly magazine 'L'Express' said in its latest edition, released today, that the Israelis had to take that decision to face flights problems it was facing as a result of the growing number of Soviet Jews emigrating to Third World countries, a US defence official said.

The instructions are in the latest defence planning guidance, a biennial classified policy document issued by the secretary of defence to help the military services make plans as they draw up their budgets for 1992-97.

A senior Defence Department official, who briefed a group of reporters on the Jan 26 document on the condition he not be identified, said the classified paper offers a significantly relaxed assessment of the possible Soviet and Warsaw Pact threat to Western Europe.

Police have said the attack was planned outside of Egypt and a Palestinian connection is being investigated.

Investigators have viewed videotape shot during the ambush, Al Akbar reported yesterday. The tape's owner said it showed the faces of the attackers.

An spokesman for the Interior Ministry, which is in charge

Call for closer ties with Turkey

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb 9, (AP): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has called for closer ties with Ankara, the Iranian media reported yesterday, indicating Tehran's desire to settle past differences.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency, said Rafsanjani's call for improved ties came in a written message to his Turkish counterpart, Turgut Ozal.

Stressing that "grounds for expansion of mutual ties between the two Muslim countries are better than ever," Rafsanjani told Ozal "the door is open" for improved political, economic and cultural ties, Iran reported.

It said Rafsanjani's message was submitted to Ozal in Ankara by Iran's visiting presidential adviser for international affairs, Ali Reza Moayyeri.

An overnight visit by a Tunisian-born rabbi led

Trabelsi to temporarily agree to the operation, but she changed her mind when she awoke yesterday.

The magistrate court ruled that Trabelsi could not be forced by the state to undergo the operation after a psychiatrist and geriatrics expert testified she was capable of assessing the consequences of her decision.

It was not clear whether anyone would challenge the ruling.

"The country was caught up in an extraordinary drama," said Yair Tsaban, a Parliament member of the leftist Mapam Party who hailed the court's decision.

Trabelsi, an ultra-religious Jew of Tunisian extraction with more than 100 descendants, said she wanted to go to heaven with her body intact.

"I am going to heaven on my own two feet," she

told the judge hearing her case at the hospital this week.

Doctors decided 10 days ago to operate on the leg after Trabelsi entered hospital to have a blood clot removed. The state took the case to court out of concern for her life

INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Failed bank-CIA link: Federal authorities backed away from investigating an airline owner accused of contributing to the financial failure of a Kansas City bank because he had ties to the CIA, a newspaper reported.

Farhda Azima, a native Iranian and owner of Global International Airways, was the fourth-largest shareholder in Indian spring state Bank of Kansas City, Kansas, which failed in 1984, the Houston Post reported on Thursday. (AP)

Medicine may lower IQ: A study released on Thursday warns doctors against giving phenobarital to babies who suffer convulsions during high fevers because the medicine, taken by tens of thousands of children, doesn't prevent seizures and may lower IQs.

"There might be an unusual child for whom this treatment would still be of benefit," said Dr. Deborah G. Hertz. "It should not be used in most cases."

Phenobarital is the drug of choice given to infants with so-called febrile seizures.

An estimated 130,000 babies a year in the United States alone suffer at least one such seizure and up to 40,000 are given the drug to prevent the convulsions from recurring, said Dr. Jonas H. Eikermann. (AP)

Indians to sell Onassis land: Most of the Wampanoag Indians involved in a 10-year battle with Jacqueline Onassis over beachfront property on Martha's Vineyard agreed to sell her the land in return for money and another tract, officials said.

According to Wampanoag legend, chief Moship and his wife, Squant, are buried in the disputed land, a 264-foot (80-metre) stretch of property in the Gay Head section of Massachusetts.

Paul Sulla, a Boston attorney representing some of the Indians, said an agreement had been reached among 95 per cent of the parties involved. (AP)

Supercollider project: White House science adviser Dr. Allan Bromley said on Wednesday that construction work on the superconducting supercollider should be delayed until industry proves it can manufacture the specialized magnets required by the massive atom smasher.

Bromley, director of the Office of Science and Technology policy in the White House, told members of the House of Representatives committee on science, space and technology that part of the \$31.8-million requested for the supercollider in fiscal 1991 will be spent proving that such magnets can be built. (AP)

US educational studies: Question: If you call a person who speaks two languages bilingual, what do you call a person who speaks one language?

An American, says congressman George Sangermeister.

He is introducing legislation on Thursday that authorizes \$35 million in federal funds over five years and matching grants to states for instruction in foreign studies, language and geography.

"We live in an increasingly global society. We can no longer afford a generation of children uneducated and uninterested in the world outside the United States," said Sangermeister.

Experts estimate 30 million Americans are functionally illiterate and as many as 2 million students leave school with deficient basic skills each year. (AP)

Europe

Inventors win British award: Boltfast University team has won a British inventors' competition for developing a computer technique using sound waves to diagnose torn knee cartilages.

Northern Ireland hospitals are famed for their intricate blood vessel repair work on the victims of "kneecapping" — the traditional punishment meted out by paramilitary forces who shoot their victims in the knees.

But the eight-man team at Queen's University won their £15,000 (\$24,000) prize for a knee screening breakthrough that could benefit leading sportsmen. (Reuter)

Cancer risk after vasectomy: Thousands of British men who have had a vasectomy could face a greater risk of cancer, according to a warning.

Men who have undergone the operation are more likely to be treated for a tumour in a testicle than those who have not.

On average the cancer was found two years after the vasectomy, but a tumour takes longer to develop, the doctors said in the British medical journal. (Kun)

Britain fifth best in Europe: Britain is one of the safest countries in Europe, a senior opposition politician has warned.

The Labour Party's foreign affairs spokesman Gerald Kaufman, was quoted by the British media as saying the UK is a "byword for dirt and disrepute" with mucky streets and transport systems. (Kun)

Royal Shakespeare Co.: Royal Shakespeare Company announced on Thursday it will close its two London theatres for four months, citing the need for what Falstaff called a "rendy against this consumption of the play."

The theatre staff of nearly 70 in London will draw half pay while performances are suspended, beginning in November, artistic director Terry Hands said. (AP)

Wedding organiser dies: Lord MacLean, the former Lord Chamberlain or chief official of Queen Elizabeth II's household who organised the 1981 wedding of her eldest son Prince Charles and the then Lady Diana Spencer, has died, his family announced on Friday.

MacLean, who was head of an ancient Scottish clan, was 73. He died on Thursday at Hampton Court Palace, a former royal residence on the River Thames 11 miles (17 kms) south west of central London, where he had been chief steward since 1985. No cause of death was stated. (AP)

Nepal seizes newspapers in crackdown against democracy drive

KATHMANDU, Feb 9. (Agencies): Nepali authorities have seized editions of two weekly newspapers that have given extensive coverage to a campaign for multi-party democracy, journalists said today.

They said officials raided the offices of Sapta Shikshak Samiti and Sapta Lok Awasi last night and seized all copies of the latest editions.

Outlawed political parties have set February 18 as the launch date for a non-violent movement to restore open political activity in the Himalayan country.

Nepal's King banned political parties in 1960



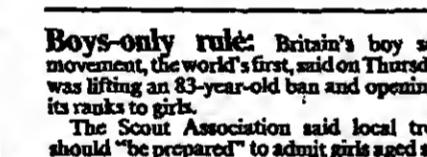
Blowing top

A South African traffic policeman battles against hurricane force winds that hit downtown Cape Town. The wind caused havoc, ripping off roofs and bowing over pedestrians. (Reuter wirephoto)



Hurricane doesn't stop

A Londoner holds on to his hat as he passes a local newspaper advertisement warning of 50-MPH winds that are expected over parts of Britain. A similar storm last Jan 25 caused the death of more than 40 people. (Reuter wirephoto)



Boys-only rule: Britain's boy scout movement, the world's first, said on Thursday it was lifting an 83-year-old ban and opening all its ranks to girls.

The Scout Association said local troops should "be prepared" to admit girls aged six to 15, acknowledging it was time to come in line with mixed groups in more than 50 other countries.

But the decision drew fire from the girl guides, a separate movement established by the Sister of Scouts founder Robert Baden-Powell, who fear their younger members in the brownies and rainbows would defect to the scouts' junior branch, the Cubs and Beavers. (Reuter)

Offer to buy Really Useful: Andrew Lloyd Webber is offering to buy his publicly owned theatre production company, Really Useful Group, so he can switch his attention from theatres to films.

Lloyd Webber on Wednesday offered 233 pence (\$3.94) a share for the 47.5 per cent of the company he doesn't already own. At that price the entire company is worth £77.4 million (\$131 million). (AP)

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Nepal's King banned political parties in 1960

"As an artist, I appeared nude in several movies but I did not shoot those indecent scenes," she said after three X-rated videos in which she appeared nude were shown in the court.

Judge Wen Yao-Nen asked if she did not realise the nude scenes shot in bed were meant for pornographic movies.

"Must those scenes be so long?" Wen said.

Miss Hsu, who was a Labour Party candidate in parliamentary elections in December, said she was told to do more nude scenes for editing into better movies. (AP)

Japan prizes: An American scientist known as the "father of artificial intelligence" and three geologists who developed the theory that the earth's crust is composed of rigid plates have won the 1990 Japan prizes, the prize committee announced on Thursday.

Professor Marvin Minsky of Massachusetts Institute of Technology will receive one of the two prizes, each worth 50 million yen (\$345,000), for developing and popularising the concept of artificial intelligence in computers, the Science and Technology Foundation of Japan said.

The other prize will be shared by Professors William Jason Morgan of Princeton University and Xavier Le Pichon of France's Ecole Normale Supérieure for their work in formulating the theory of tectonic plates, the foundation said. (AP)

Angola peace: Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has claimed government troops captured the strategic base of Mayange from US-backed rebels and urged their leader to accept cease-fire terms to end Angola's 10-year civil war.

Speaking on Tuesday night at a meeting of Angolan farmers, Dos Santos offered rebel leader Jonas Savimbi "humane treatment." He accepted a cease-fire based on a government amnesty offer leading to the rebels' integration into Angola's military, economic and social systems.

Dos Santos said candidates independent of the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, or MPLA, would be allowed to stand in elections held after the war ends. (AP)

Cholera spreads in Zambia: The Zambian government declared the capital and areas up to 50 kms (30 miles) away at risk from cholera on Thursday, an official said.

Up to 36 people were feared dead in the outbreak of the infectious disease.

Health Minister Mavisa Muyandu declared all urban districts and a wide tract of neighbouring territory infected, a ministry spokesman said on condition of not being identified.

The Home Affairs Ministry, meanwhile, announced plans to reduce the number of inmates in overcrowded prison cells and to limit prison visits by relatives. (AP)

Minister offers to quit: Peru's interior minister has offered to resign following sharp criticism of the police breakup of a campaign march in which a leftist presidential candidate was shot in the leg.

President Alan Garcia apologised to the candidate, Henry Pizca, and met with his cabinet Thursday to discuss Wednesday's incident in downtown Lima as well as Interior Minister Augustin Mantilla's offer to step down.

Mantilla, who was in charge of overseeing law enforcement, called the police action that left at least seven people wounded "without justification."

No statement was issued after the cabinet meeting on whether Garcia formally accepted Mantilla's offer, and no replacement has been named, but Mantilla said his resignation was "irrevocable."

Radio Program as reported earlier Thursday without attribution said Garcia had accepted the resignation.

Senate President Humberto Carranza, of Garcia's centre-left Aprista Party, said Thursday he supported Mantilla's decision to resign. (AP)

Ortega image lift: Nicaragua was to release more than 1,000 political prisoners on Friday in a move diplomats said was calculated to lift the Sandinista government's standing at home and abroad before February 25 elections.

Most of the prisoners, including anti-Sandinista Contra rebels and members of former dictator Anastasio Somoza's national guard, would be freed from Tipitapa prison near Managua in a ceremony presided over by President Daniel Ortega, officials said.

Diplomatic and international electoral observers have been invited to the mass release which the government is portraying as a step towards peace and reconciliation after years of war against the US-backed Contras.

With the sheer weight of international observers here for the elections, the Sandinistas are concerned to remove all grounds for criticism, one Western diplomat said.

"It puts the government in a very good position politically and diplomatically from now on extremely good on the human rights front." (Reuter)

11 rebels held in Costa Rica: Eleven leftist rebels allegedly trained in Nicaragua and Libya have been arrested, the government said Thursday in San José, Costa Rica.

Franisco Ruiz, spokesman for the federal police, said some of the 11 had fought in a recent guerrilla offensive against the government of El Salvador. They were arrested in various parts of Costa Rica.

"Our intelligence reports say that all these men were trained in Libya and Nicaragua in guerrilla tactics," Ruiz said.

"Various detainees participated in November with El Salvador's Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front in the offensive they launched in that country," Ruiz said.

That offensive resulted in the deaths of more than 1,000 people, including government soldiers, guerrillas and civilians, he said.

"It was unfortunate to note that members of a group who had resolved three days ago to stand by the government ... on the Kashmir issue resorted to violence, took the law in their hands and killed and injured so many innocent people in Karach."

Mitterrand to visit Pakistan and Dhaka

PARIS, Feb 9. (AP): President Francois Mitterrand will make official visits to Pakistan and Bangladesh later this month, the presidential palace announced today.

Mitterrand will be in Pakistan Feb 19-21, and Bangladesh Feb 22-24, the announcement said.

Opposition spokesman for the banned Nepali Congress Party.

Arrests have been reported from nine districts outside the Nepalese capital, he told a news conference.

Niranjan Thapa, minister of state for home affairs, confirmed the ongoing arrests but did not confirm the number and said severe action will be taken against the opposition.

"The government has started to take action against anti-national forces. The government will not hesitate to take action when it finds it necessary," he said.

Witnesses said three more people were shot dead and nearly 175 injured, many by gunfire, as the

Congress suffers setback

Two prominent leaders defect to Janata

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 9: Less than three weeks before crucial assembly elections in several states, the Congress (I) Party suffered a setback when two of its prominent leaders, Sunil Shastri in Uttar Pradesh and N.K. Tirupati in Maharashtra, left it Thursday to join the Janata Dal led by Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

Shastri is the son of late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and a former Uttar Pradesh minister for power. He had unsuccessfully contested as the Congress candidate against V.P. Singh from the Allahabad Lok Sabha constituency in 1988. Last November, the party fielded him for the Uttar Pradesh assembly election from Gorakhpur, but he lost again.

His elder brother Hare Krishna Shastri is

still with the Congress and was a minister in the Rajiv government. His younger brother, Anil Shastri, was elected to the Lok Sabha last November from Varanasi as a Janata Dal nominee.

Sunil's defection to the party was announced by Janata Dal secretary-general Ajit Singh. Shastri cited "lack of inner party democracy" in the Congress as his reason for leaving. Things had not improved after the party's defeat in the Lok Sabha poll, he said.

Sunil said he decided to join the Janata Dal after seeing the "sincere efforts" being made by Singh to tackle the many problems facing the country. "I have always considered him as my political mentor," he said. Shastri is expected to campaign for the Janata Dal in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Bihar during the assembly poll, he said.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Abdus Gafoor yesterday also quit Congress, complaining of a lack of "inner party democracy."

Gafoor sent in a one-line resignation letter to Rajiv and later told reporters that he had no plans to join any other party at the moment. But he will actively campaign for the National Front nominees in Bihar during the assembly poll, he said.

Lankan Muslims warn of anarchy

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Opec will need help to meet demand

HOUSTON, Texas, Feb 9. (AP): World demand for oil is projected to increase in the 1990s, but the Opec nations will need financial help to meet that need and avoid another oil crisis, the organisation's general secretary says.

In an address to some 400 international energy industry executives, Subroto said Wednesday the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will have to increase production capacity to meet the projected demand for oil in this decade.

While world demand for oil is projected to rise in the 1990s, non-Opec supply is expected to fall, Subroto said during a two-day meeting on oil and gas strategies in the oil and gas industries.

Subroto said research by Opec also indicates an oil crisis would "come at the point when our organisation no longer has the production capacity to meet the rising level of demand."

"Thus there is a requirement to expand Opec production capacity rapidly," Subroto said.

"We are simply talking about a level of expenditure well in excess of our financial capabilities as a group of 13 developing countries," said Subroto, who is from Indonesia.

"If we wish to avoid a crisis, we have no alternative course to follow, for without an adequate and rapid expansion of production capacity, there will sooner or later be a tightening of supply and a rapid rise in prices, followed by years of severe fluctuations in market behaviour and considerable wastage of our finite oil reserves," he said.

\$1.35 billion aluminium plant planned

DUBAI, Feb 9. (Reuters): Iran and a Gulf company have agreed to build a \$1.35-billion aluminium plant, the largest foreign joint project under Iran's new commitment to industrial reconstruction and development.

The Dubai-based International Development Corporation (IDC) said a statement the 220,000-tonne per year plant would be built at Bandar Abbas, just across the Gulf from Dubai on the Iranian coast.

The Iranian partner is the Ministry of Mines and Metals and the project will be completed in three years. Details of financing and ownership were not available.

The IDC said the plant would export at least half its output when completed, which aluminium industry sources said would be a major boost to a growing Gulf aluminium export capacity.

British Gas chief in Delhi for talks

Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Feb 9: British Gas chairman and chief executive Robert Evans arrived in Delhi on Thursday at the head of a high-level delegation for discussions with top Indian officials in the oil, gas and energy sectors.

The company has evinced keen interest in extending its involvement in India, not only in projects within the country with Indian partners but also in joint ventures in third countries.

British Gas's main areas of interest are in the fields of oil and gas exploration, city gas distribution systems, facilities for the importation of liquefied natural gas and oil and gas pipeline transportation systems. In addition, the British Gas on-line inspection centre is offering its "intelligent pig" for the condition monitoring of operational pipelines.

The company, which is the largest integrated gas business in the Western world, is currently working on a study for a domestic gas pipeline system for Delhi and its suburbs.

Airlines launch independent computerised reservation venture

NEW YORK, Feb 9. (UPI): Delta, Northwest and TWA Thursday launched a new venture, Worldspan Travel Agency Information Services, which will operate an independent computerised-reservation system for the three airlines.

"Worldspan will be the first computer reservation system to be developed and operated autonomously of its airline owners," said Cal Rader, chief executive officer of the new venture.

"Selling travel agencies will no longer share a reservation system that is also tailored for use by its airline owners," Rader said, "but a truly dedicated system designed to meet the needs of travel agents and the travelling public on a worldwide scale."

Rader, who formerly headed Delta's own reservation system, Datas II, firmly ruled out any takeover rumour linked to the venture in which the Atlanta-based carrier holds the dominant stake.

Bundesbank seeks to calm markets

BONN, Feb 9. (Agencies): The head of West Germany's central bank told financial markets today not to worry about the prospect of German unification.

"The West German mark is very strong and the financial markets can have confidence that things will not get out of control," Karl Otto Poehl, president of the independent, Frankfurt-based Bundesbank, said at a news conference.

He said that he saw no big obstacles to funding unification. "The financing problem is manageable."

He added the planned monetary union should not boost West German inflation. "This need not be the case."

On Tuesday, after talks with his East German counterpart in East Berlin, Poehl spoke against rapid currency union.

"We both believe it would be premature to consider such a far-reaching step at this stage," he said.

"It is an illusion to imagine that even one of the problems in

East Germany would be solved by the introduction of the West German mark in East Germany."

Soon afterwards Chancellor Helmut Kohl issued a call for immediate talks with East Berlin on German currency union.

West German financial markets have been very nervous this week that monetary union would unleash inflationary pressures.

West Germany, pushing for monetary union and political unification with East Germany, stirred up an embarrassing row today over its partner's economic health.

The trouble started when a senior Bonn official raised the prospect of an imminent East German economic collapse.

"Insisting on anonymity, he told reporters: "There are signs that, in only a few days, East Germany could become insolvent."

It was this prospect, he said, that prompted West Germany on Wednesday to suggest immediate talks with East Ger-

many on a plan to introduce the Deutschmark to the East to shore up its economy.

But official spokesman for West Germany and for the East German government, led by communist Hans Modrow, denied that Bonn believed an East German economic collapse was imminent.

The West German government does not believe East Germany could become insolvent in the next few days," chief Bonn government spokesman Hans Klein said.

Said East Berlin government spokesman Wolfgang Mayer: "As long as the Modrow government is in power, East Germany will not become unable to meet its payment (obligations)."

A West German government source said separately that Bonn was extremely worried about the state of the East German economy.

It concedes that monetary union alone will not solve East Germany's problems at its heads from four decades of hardline communism rule towards multiparty democracy.

But it has said it wants to offer



Karl Otto Poehl addresses a news conference in Bonn. (Reuter wirephoto)

dampen any sense of panic, the sources said.

West Germany has accelerated its bid for economic and monetary union by emphasising that time is running out for the East German economy.

It concedes that monetary union alone will not solve East Germany's problems at its heads from four decades of hardline communism rule towards multiparty democracy.

But it has said it wants to offer

a "signal of hope" to East Germans in the hope of stemming a mass exodus of East Germans to the West which is damaging East German industry.

The top West German official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity, said the decline of the East German economy has accelerated to a point where "insolvency could be within a few days."

He said Kohl would address the situation in East Germany during his weekend visit to Moscow, where he will meet with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

"The Soviet Union is neither prepared nor in any position to help in this situation," the official said, referring to the urgent measures needed to prevent economic collapse in East Germany.

The official also predicted that East Germany's first free elections, set for March 18, may be rescheduled because of the instability of the interim government and nearly bankrupt econ-

omy.

The balloting already had been moved forward from the original May 6 date in view of the communist-led government's instability and growing unrest nationwide.

His forecast added to an increasing chorus of warnings that the East German economy is on the brink of collapse.

Poehl told reporters that monetary union with troubled East Germany will mean major sacrifices on both sides, but said the West German state can afford it and has little choice.

He added that East Germany's current leaders have openly resisted wholesale conversion of their economy to Western principles, which stands in the way of successful monetary union.

But he conceded that the current leaders are not an expression of the public's views, and that the new government to be seated after elections would likely embrace a completely different ideology that could be

more conducive to reunification.

Poehl was in East Berlin earlier in the week for meetings with East German economic leaders, and he declared after those talks that monetary union was not advisable in the near future.

"But it is fully clear that the Bundesbank president and a citizen of this nation, will loyally support such an important decision of the federal government," Poehl stated.

He made clear that he differed with Kohl on the pace at which West German efforts at monetary union should proceed, but attributed the chancellor's "bold decision" to the crisis atmosphere propelling inter-German developments.

What remains to be done is to minimize the risks of speedy economic union, he said.

Poehl suggested that the 4 per cent growth rate experienced in 1989 and predicted again for this year could bankroll the East German bailout.

Baghdad to invite foreign firms to finance oilfield development

Iraq to boost gas export: minister

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Feb 9. (AP): Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said Iraq plans to increase its natural gas exports through greater use of its newly reopened southern terminals on the Gulf, according to a report published yesterday.

Al Chalabi was quoted by the government-run Al Joumhouria newspaper as saying as many as four million tons of liquefied gas annually through the southern terminals starting June 1.

He said a processing plant and a pipeline will be built before June 1 so gas can be exported from one central terminal in Khour Al Zubair by tanker to world markets.

Iraq is building a giant natural gas liquids/liquefied petroleum gas (NGL/LPG) plant near its southern port city of Basra to exploit the country's massive gas reserves. The plant, with an estimated price tag of \$1.5 billion, has a projected annual production capacity of 5.4 billion cubic metres.

Al Chalabi told the daily that three gas treatment plants in the huge complex have already been completed and they can process 100 million cubic metres of gas per day.

Al Chalabi did not say if Iraq has found markets for its gas exports, but energy experts said it would easily find buyers in the region and elsewhere in the world.

Iraq is believed to have one trillion cubic metres of gas reserves.

Al Chalabi, speaking after inaugurating a new oil field near Basra, said Iraq wanted to use all its natural gas resources.

The new Al Sabah oil field, developed by Iraq's southern oil company, is expected to produce 20,000 barrels a day initially and its capacity could increase to about 60,000 barrels per day.

The field has proven reserves of 2.2 million barrels and Al Chalabi said its oil is among the best quality produced in Iraq.

The field has also the capacity of producing 20 million cubic

metres of gas a day, the minister said.

A 39-kilometre pipeline has also been completed to carry the gas into the nearest treatment plant at the main southern gas gathering complex near Basra.

Basra has been blocked as Iraq's main port since the 1980-88 war with Iran, with control over the Shatt Al Arab waterway one of the main stumbling blocks in the peace talks stalled since the August 1988 ceasefire.

Iraq has developed a series of alternate ports and canals to allow ships to circumvent the waterway on their way to the Gulf.

Another major gas field is under development in the Gulf region, with nearby Qatar planning to bring 800 million cubic feet a day from its North Field in the first stage of exploitation underway.

Meanwhile, a senior Iraqi oil ministry official told Opecna today that Iraq would invite foreign oil companies to develop new oilfields without incurring

any additional costs as payment would be made from the oil found.

In a telephone interview from Baghdad, Sami Sharif, under-secretary at the oil ministry, when asked what particular fields were sought to be developed, replied, "we have many fields."

Sharif's remarks were in line with a number of international press reports saying that the Iraqi government was making a major effort to increase the country's oil production capacity by inviting foreign companies to develop specified oilfields in return for payment in crude.

In an interview appearing in this week's issue of "Platt's Week", Al Chalabi was quoted as saying that a political decision had been taken to allow foreign companies to directly finance its upstream operations.

"We will pay back the investment with the crude from each particular project," the minister said.

Big gas refinery opened

Turning point for Iran

in August 1988.

Rafsanjani told Iranian television the inauguration of the Kangan refinery was a turning point for Iran, securing supplies for industries to be built under the country's five-year plan.

He said the plant's maximum daily output of 80 million cubic metres was the equivalent of 700,000 barrels of kerosene and diesel fuel, enabling Iran to substitute gas for a large part of its domestic energy consumption.

The Iranian news agency IRNA on Wednesday quoted Mohammad Ismail Kordchian, head of the National Iranian Gas Company, as saying Iran would finalise a deal next week for exporting eight million cubic metres of gas to the Soviet Union from April 1.

Gas would flow from Kangan, 860 km (540 miles) south of Tehran, through the Iglat-pipeline to the border town of Astara on the western coast of the Caspian Sea.

Iran's natural gas reserves estimated at 14 trillion cubic metres (494 trillion cubic feet) are the world's second largest after the Soviet Union.

The Kangan plant was attacked several times by Iraqi jets before the Gulf war halted with a ceasefire

Dollar firm

LONDON, Feb 9. (UPI): The dollar closed mostly higher against the major European currencies today. Gold was down.

The dollar closed higher in Frankfurt 1.6750 German marks against 1.6690 at Thursday's close, and also was higher in Zurich at 1.4945 Swiss francs against 1.4915, in Paris at 5.6810 French francs against 5.6635, in Brussels at 35.085 Belgian francs against 34.96, and in Milan at 1.242.60 lire against 1.239.

In London, the pound closed higher at \$1.6905 against \$1.6875 at Thursday's close.

In Zurich, gold, which has lost \$8 in two days, closed lower at \$416 per ounce against \$418 per ounce at Thursday's close. Gold also was lower in London at \$415.75 per ounce against \$418.15 per ounce.

Silver closed lower in Zurich at \$3.30 per ounce against \$3.35 per ounce, and also was lower in London at \$5.27 per ounce against \$5.32 per ounce.

Tokyo stock prices slipped in quiet trading as investors retreated to the sidelines ahead of a three-day weekend.

The key 225-share Nikkei Average dropped 228.10 points to close at 37,288.14, reversing a 214.37-point gain on Thursday. Volume was a very light 350 million shares.

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BUSINESS

American producer prices up

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (AP): A mid-winter cold snap sent U.S. wholesale inflation soaring 1.8 per cent in January, the steepest one-month rise in more than 15 years, the government said today.

The spurt in the Labour Department's producer price index was nearly triple the already brisk 0.6 per cent gain in December. If wholesale inflation persisted at the January pace, it would produce an annual price rise of 24.1 per cent.

Economists, however, were not overly concerned. January inflation one stop short of the retail level was attributed almost entirely to sharp but temporary increases in the price of fuel oil and vegetables.

Last month's gain was even steeper than the 1.2 per cent jump predicted by most analysts. The last monthly increase of greater magnitude was recorded to November 1974 during the Opec oil embargo, when prices shot up 2 per cent in one month.

The so-called core rate of inflation — prices excluding the volatile food and energy sectors — rose a slight 0.1 per cent in January, the mildest rise since April.

"Our projections for the year clearly expect a reversal of these cold-related increases," economist Donald Ratajczak of Georgia State University said in advance of today's report. "Virtually all the price rise caused by the water will be reversed in the spring."

Energy prices in January rose 13.6 per cent, the biggest increase since the Labour Department began compiling that index in 1974. Fuel oil prices were up a startling 25.3 per cent, also the biggest jump on record.

As refineries switched production to fuel oil, supplies of gasoline grew short, sending those prices up 16.7 per cent. Natural gas costs rose a brisk 3.2 per cent.

Fuel costs, meanwhile, shot up 21 per cent, the sharpest rise in six years. The price of fresh and dried vegetables rose 58 per cent for the month, the largest seasonally adjusted gain recorded since the department began tracking that category in 1967.

Egg prices climbed 12.5 per cent to top of 9.1 per cent rise in December. Over the past 12 months, egg costs have risen 45.4 per cent. Fruit was up 3.9 per cent and fish rose 6.3 per cent.

The increases were partly offset by substantial declines for other items. Rice dropped 1.1 per cent; pasta, 5.8 per cent; chicken, 2.8 per cent; and Turkey, 11.9 per cent.

Aid package approved

WASHINGTON, Feb 9, (AP): The House of Representatives approved a \$42-million aid package for Panama on Wednesday that lawmakers said will help the Central American country boost its damaged economy. The measure, which was approved by a voice vote, also includes \$10 million to help newly emerging democracies in Eastern Europe prepare for elections.

Republican Congressman Gerald Solomon called the \$42 million a way of "finishing the course that just cause" began. It combines aid, trade and investment. "The Defense Department dubbed the Dec. 20 US invasion of Panama "Operation Just Cause."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has endorsed a similar package for Panama, and the Senate is expected to approve it shortly.

The Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday waived the normal 45-day review period and voted unanimously to lift the trade sanctions imposed two years ago because of Panama's involvement then in drug trafficking.

Currency rates

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.28999	0.29114
Sterling	0.48860	0.49350
DM	0.17330	0.17530
Sw.Fr.	0.19330	0.19380
F.Fr.	0.05090	0.05149
Yen	0.001239	0.001256
Japan yen	0.001986	0.002008
Bah.din	0.76900	0.77270
UAE Dh.	0.07891	0.07933
S.riyal	0.07726	0.07768
Q.riyal	0.07960	0.08005
O.riyal	0.75727	0.75880

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Oil talks

The ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kuwait, Cleus Soenksen, paid a courtesy visit to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) on Wednesday. He was received by Abdel Aziz Alwattari, Opec's acting secretary-general. Alwattari briefed the ambassador on Opec's activities and concern with developing the oil industry in its member countries. Discussions also covered the importance of energy in raising the standard of living in developing countries and the role of energy conservation in the industrial countries. Alwattari (right) pictured with Soenksen.

Coca-Cola lights up Moscow



Coca-Cola sign in Pushkin Square is a visible indication of commitment to grow business in the USSR.

Fanta are local favourites in the Soviet Union and have been available there since 1985 and 1979 respectively.

The Moscow sign joins an exclusive list of Coca-Cola neon signs that are located in many outstanding cities around the world.

The Banktijari Offshore Fund Limited

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*includes 2% front end fee

Continuous growth...

Commercial Bank * البنك التجاري

First time since 1970s

Bonn trade surplus overtakes Japan's

BAHRAIN, Feb 9, (Reuter): West Germany announced a record trade surplus for 1989 today, putting the Europe's dominant economic power ahead of Japan for the first time since the 1970s.

Official data showed West Germany's exports surged last year as demand intensified for its quality engineering goods.

Bonn's trade surplus jumped five per cent to 134.7 billion marks (\$81 billion) in 1989. Japan's 1989 trade surplus was \$77 billion.

But economists said West Germany may not wear its laurels for long once economic union with East Germany, a goal the Bonn government is rapidly pressing for, is realized.

"We'll see a significant drop in the surpluses because of East Germany," said Ulrich Hombrecher, German economist at Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale in Dusseldorf.

East Germany's citizens, who have suffered for years from consumer goods shortages, will soon start equipping themselves from scratch. They would probably start coming to West Germany to buy consumer goods which are not made here.

That would swell West Germany's imports and curb its foreign surpluses.

"Many of the things they want, like electronic goods, are not made here and will be imported," said Hombrecher.

Such imports could slice West Germany's 1990 trade surplus by up to 20 billion marks (\$12 billion), said Warren Oliver, an economist at UK brokers

Phillips and Drew.

West Germany's 1989 current account surplus, which includes services such as banking and insurance as well as goods, rose 16 per cent to 99.1 billion marks (\$60 billion).

Bonn last had a bigger current account surplus than Japan in 1976, when a huge oil price rise cut Japan's surplus.

Tokyo, which faces continued criticism from trading partners, expects its trade surpluses to fall this year.

a day.

The Federal Statistics Office said West German mark should be revalued against other European currencies. However, European governments oppose any such move.

A statistics office official, Siegfried Guckes, told journalists West Germany's trade surpluses were already dwindling in the last three months of 1989 because of East Germans moving here.

More than 300,000 East Germans settled in West Germany last year and more are coming at a rate of up to 3,000

Saudi stock index jumps

Share market poised for steady growth in '90



Mohammed Ali Abal Khalil
(Sama)

showed the total value of shares traded in 1989 was 3.4 billion

rials (\$906 million), 65

per cent up on 1988.

Traded share value of listed

commercial banks soared 205

per cent over 1988, taking up

about half the total business

volume.

Cement firms followed with a

52 per cent gain in traded share

value, then industrial companies

with 36 per cent and service firms

with 23 per cent. Analysts said

this was offset by sharp declines in

the electricity and agriculture

sectors.

Banking sector gains were

caused partly by a general econ-

omic recovery in the kingdom fuelled by higher oil prices, the analysts said.

But the main cause was the popularity of Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corporation, whose share price shot up to a high of 1,800 riyals from 100 when they were issued late in 1988.

Duty of up to 20 per cent placed on imported cement at end-1988 sharply boosted the performance of local cement firms.

Frofts of Arab cement company rose five-fold to 11 million riyals (\$30 million) and its share price trebled.

Saudi Pharmaceutical Industry and Medical Appliances Corp (Spinarmac) — which has yet to begin operating — was a market leader in the industry sector. Its share price rose to 338 riyals in December from 160 in January 1988 on news of deals it had arranged with international drug companies.

In bid to halt price swings, Finance and National Economy Minister Sheikh Mohammed Ali Abal-Khalil warned investors in October against unwarranted speculation.

Prices for some firms fell as a result, with Al Rajhi shares plumping 500 riyals to about 1,300 just

after the announcement.

"The Saudi share market does not run on company news — it runs mainly on rumours," a banker commented at the time.

Analysts said Sama went out

of its way to protect investors but its rules aimed at doing this sometimes made it hard for firms to go public or to raise capital.

Any company which wanted to sell shares to the public must first agree with the Ministry of Commerce on an existing share value, based on its fixed assets rather than its performance.

This could lead to undervaluation of shares of established firms, while new companies with no track record could find it easy to sell buyers for their shares, the analyst said.

Government rules also prevented shareholders from taking money raised through a public flotation out of the company, so if they wanted to recoup part of an initial investment they did so through a private placement, the analysts said.

Bankers said automated share dealing would revolutionise the market by providing accurate pricing and information, enabling small investors to compete better with large ones.

KD deposit rates rise

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Reuter): Kuwaiti short dated dinar deposits were well bid on Thursday pushing rates higher, dealers said.

Overnight, tomorrow-oext, spot-oext and one week rose to a uniform 8-9/16 8-1/2 ahead of the Muslim weekend from Wednesday's 8-5/8 3/8.

"The Central bank raised the yield on secondary bills by about a 1/4 pct today. They were traded at 8-3/8 8/8 which pushed bids off short dates higher," one dealer said.

The loop-date market remained quiet. One to three months were seen around 8-5/8 3/8 while six months and a year were little changed at 8-11/16 7/16 from the previous 8-3/4 1/2.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate to 0.29024/34 to the dollar from Wednesday's 0.28980/90.

It was the second World Bank loan to Morocco this week after \$170 million lent to finance the reconstruction of 1,000 kms (600 miles) of highways, the official news agency Map said today.

It was the second World Bank loan to Morocco this week after \$170 million lent to finance the reconstruction of 1,000 kms (600 miles) of highways, the official news agency Map said today.

The 20-year loans with five-year grace periods will carry variable interest rates currently at 7.75 per cent.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Feb 9.	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	330	328	322.50
Alem Chem	—	—	—
Ale Nis	—	—	—
Ari Fab	—	—	—
Asian Ley	210	210	210
Auto Paint	310	308	308
Auto Corp	40	47.50	50
Auto Corp	376.02	380	380
Bajaj Auto	383.75	387.50	380
Bar Rayon	705	700	687.50
Blow Plast	194	191.50	186
Boss Dye	95	93	93
BK Bond	85	80	85
Car Care	3125	3100	3005
Cen Enka	2500	2490	2480
Colgate	182.50	182.50	181.25
Crom Gr	930	900	925
DCM	14	13	14
Deep Fert	30.50	30.25	30.25
Desco Ind	60	58	59
El Motors	79.50	78.50	79
Excorts	79.50	108	107.50
BSE Index	647.47	647.50	647.50
Eskayek	128.75	127.50	123.75
Esso Spg	26.50	26.25	26.37</

EVENTS



Vasantotsav

The Bengal Cultural Society recently celebrated its annual spring festival, "Vasantotsav," at the Mousatrap Theatre in Jabiya. In keeping with tradition, they dedicated the evening to children, organizing several competitions including painting, recitation, and a quiz contest. The competitions were open to children of all ages and the winners received medals and cups, among other gifts.

The fun-filled evening ended with the grand Ananda Mela, in which the Bengal ladies took part. They prepared a feast of Bengali food and sweets and held a bazaar featuring handicrafts from the Indian state. The India Tea Board joined in the activities adding a taste of tea, courtesy the Tea Board representative in Kuwait.

Pictures show (Clockwise from left): some of the participants, the painting competitors, a competitor.

BBC world service highlights

Afghansy

For more than nine years the Soviet Army fought in Afghanistan. Some 15,000 were killed, many were wounded physically and many more suffered mentally. They returned home bewildered yet proud to have served their country. Stephen Dalziel has been talking to Afghans—veterans of the Afghan War—in Moscow and Leningrad and has discovered that although the fighting is over these men still have their battles to fight at home.

Sunday, February 11 at 19.15 and Monday, February 12 at 10.30 and 16.30.

The Long Sunset

R.C. Sheriff's play is set in AD 410 when the Roman army is about to set sail for Italy from the South-east coast of England leaving Britain undefended. Julian and Serena are among the Roman families left behind and they face the approaching threat of Saxons and Celts who are converging on the country. Arthur and his wife Guinevere are rumoured to be leading a small army to restore law and order. Will he prove to be saviour or is their time in Britain

over for ever? Reginald Marsh, Gwen Watford Edward de Souza star in the production adapted for radio by Penny Leicester.

Sunday, February 11 at 15.01 and 22.01.

At Home With Bob Wilson

When Arsenal Football Club won the FA Cup and League double in 1971 in goal for them was Bob Wilson. Paddy Feeney visits the goalkeeper turned television personality at his home and talks to him about his career.

Friday, February 16 at 17.45
Sunday, February 18 at 12.15 and Monday, February 19 at 07.45

Gold and Silver

Nigel Douglas introduces The Bells of Corneville by Robert Planquette, an operetta which was all the rage in the 1880s but is now rarely performed.

Friday, February 16 at 13.30 and 20.15. Recommended frequencies for these areas are:

17.64 MHZ/17.01 m
15.07 MHZ/19.91 m
11.76 MHZ/25.51 m

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Batman
Salmyah
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Al Firdous
Jeene ki Arzon
Fahsheel Open
Fahsheel
Arara Arirao
Al Jabs
They Went That Way
Granada
Dead End City
Salaibikhat
Ninja Champion
Jeeb
Unnikrishna Aaydayate
Christmas
Ahmad Drive-in
Snur Grapes

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.11 am
Zohr	12.02 pm
Aṣr	3.10
Maghreb	5.33
Isha	6.51

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

THE MORNING PERIOD

9.30

The Opening and Only Quran

9.40 Sabah Al Kher News

9.50 Cartoon serial

10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.30 Shua'a Fi Al Madhi: Arabic serial (part 1), starring Mohammed Redha, Zahra Al Olla, Mahmoud Al Jundi

11.25 Sabah Al Kher News

11.30 Wadan Zaman Al Sami Weekly Arabic serial (part 6)

12.25 News Summary

12.30 Sabah Al Kher News

12.35 Holy Quran and Closdown

THE EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran

4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

4.45 Saham Al Fadha: Cartoon serial

5.15 The Young Artist: Local children programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Sheikh

5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements

6.00 Wa Qala Hakem: Historical serial (part 2)

7.00 Varieties

7.15 Noor Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qader

7.45 Cultural programme

8.00 Security and Citizens: Local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Interior, Public Relations Department

8.30 Gond Evening and Local News

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Daera Al Ahdath: Weekly local programme, prepared and presented by Kamel Sulaiman Al Abdul Jaleel

10.15 Ahlam Sagheera: Local serial (part 2),

starring Suad Abdulla, Ibrahim Al Salal, Hayat Al Fahad and Khaled Al Obaid
11.00 Thaib Al Nashama: Weekly Beduin serial
12.00 News Summary
12.05 The World Today via Satellite
12.25 Holy Quran and Closdown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The Adventures of Raggedy and Andy. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Orphans of the Wild "Ostriches" Pt. 2. A look at ostriches being the fastest animals. Their speed reaches 40 miles per hour.
7.00 The Ultimate Machine. Music and dance and their effect on body muscles.

7.30 The Hungry Family "Moving On". David takes care of house affairs while Sandy has to assume her duty as a teacher

8.00 News in English

8.30 Quantum Leap. "Campari Kid". Sam with the help of "Al" the invisible man, has to prevent Sheril from marrying Bnb. He appears like her brother "Cane"...

9.30 The Nuclear Weapons Eps. 2. Armament race between the two great powers... The production of the Giant B.I. plane which is capable to penetrate behind the Soviet front lines...

9.45 Cultural programme
8.00 Security and Citizens: Local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Interior, Public Relations Department

8.30

Gond Evening and Local News

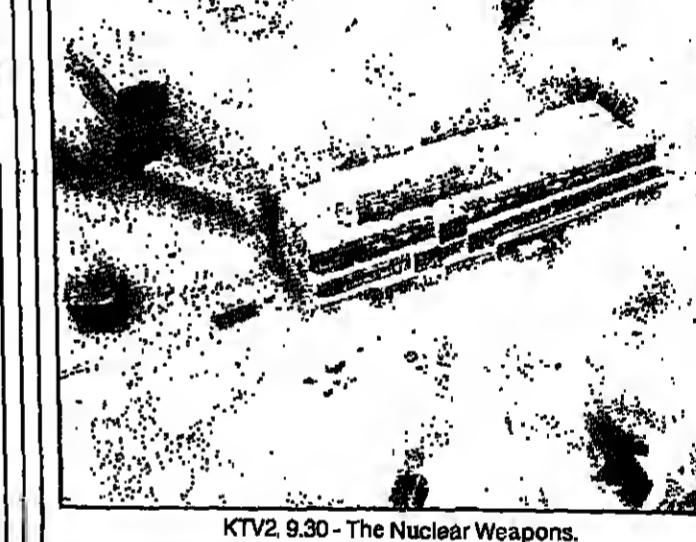
9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Daera Al Ahdath: Weekly local programme, prepared and presented by Kamel Sulaiman Al Abdul Jaleel

10.15 Ahlam Sagheera: Local serial (part 2),

12.00 News in Brief

12.30 Magazine D'Actualite



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00-12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2433259.

Craft Centre

MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

Hoof Centre

FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah

14 Feh. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoine who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

ABSCONDING

Please help trace Faisal Abbas Rana Matir Rahman, bearing passport No. C806397, who is absconding after failing to pay KD 850 as dues to Al Khaleej Insurance Co. against the purchase of a Toyota car in 1986 bearing No. 2710.

Contact Bangladesh Embassy 4831605 (Mr. A. Rahman, First Secy), 4310970 and 4316960 (Mr. M. Moazzumin) or 4316823 (Engg. Abdur Rab).

Singapore festival
SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent. The oriental extravaganza will present Lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore tourist promotion board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel front office, tel. no. 5657000.

Valentine's Party
VALENTINE'S Party: Come join the fun. Feb 15 dinner buffet, Top Ranks band, door prizes, Cupid's arrow awaiting! For more information call Nina on 5339623 or Kathy on 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

SOCIAL

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Konkani drama

THE New Goan Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sounshant Astana Dial" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaittecs) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino De Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Carnival Fiesta '90

YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messiah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22 '90. Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbouz."

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaittecs. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Danielle Fastelavn

Danielle celebrates "Fastelavn" for Danes at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne — Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Winnie — Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Kuwait Welsh Society ST. DAVID's Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March 1990. At Messiah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

British Council

THE ITALIAN JOB: Saturday, 10 and Sunday, 11 February 6.30 pm, 130 min.

The title is Italian but the cast is most definitely British. Michael Caine and Noel Coward star in this fast, entertaining comedy caper. With wild dashes galore, the job culminates with the robbers in their mini cars using the piazza, arcades and roof tops to make their getaway causing the world's biggest traffic jam.

STUDYING, COMPUTING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE IN BRITAIN

Whether you want a short course, a 2-year diploma, a B.Sc. or a PhD we have the information you need. Come and visit the Education Office on Monday, 12 February or Tuesday, 13 February and access our computerized database! Our staff will be there to assist you and help find a course to suit you.

One Act Play Rehearsals

Kuwait Players are holding auditions for a selection of one act plays to be staged in April. If you're interested in directing, acting or assisting backstage, do come along to the auditions at 7.30 pm on Monday Feb 12th or Tuesday Feb 13th. Please phone 5615357 for details of venue.

Carnival Dinner Nite

Carnival dinner nite by the Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Tent) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers, on 22nd Feb, 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards: Highlights of the evening: Parade by K-Momo, Crowning of Carnival Queen, Rumba Samba dance competition, Group prizes, and many other surprises. For further details please contact: The Organisers, Chopsticks Chinese takeaway. Tel: 5617243.

British Council

Children's film: Wednesday, 14 Feb, at 6.00 pm; Thursday 15 Feb, at 10.30 am. Five Ga Ta Demon's Rock: The Famous Five go treasure hunting after hearing about a legend of hidden gold in the Wreckers' Cave near Demon's Rock. Join them in their exciting adventure in their search for an old gold coin. 44 min. Admission is free but please book seats by calling Tel.: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

SPORTS

Seven a side tourney ACOI Overseas is pleased to announce their first one day tournament which will be held on the 2nd of March 1990, at the Al Sour Grounds. For further information contact: Carmelo D'Souza or Albert Leitao.

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmad, present the Kuwait Folk Group in concert on 14th and 15th February, at 8 pm both nights. Tickets, can be ordered by phoning 3919759.

Videos of the recent very successful pantomime Sinbad the Sailor, can be picked up from the theatre on Sunday 4th February from 7 pm to 9 pm.

ACT

ACT a production of Thornton Wilder's comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be presented on February 27, 28 and March 1 at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets can be reserved by calling 5725071 or 5717182.



Moody but never mean, Bono has kept his compassion during his rise to the top.

Movie-making

Playing the showbiz game

LOS ANGELES, (UPI): Aspiring movie producers, take note. Industry veterans Sally Smith and Michael O'Rourke have a few things you should know.

For example, if someone says he has the financial backing to make a \$30 million picture, what he really means is he's having lunch with two guys from Japan next week.

If studio representatives say they want to "run this on an ornamental basis," it means they like your project—but not enough to pay for it.

And that business associate who said to call him after Cannes? well, he is really thinking you're a loser, but he could be wrong and it's a small town.

Pessimistic? maybe. But Smith and O'Rourke know what they're talking about. Between them, they have racked up 16 years in the movie industry and they have the war wounds to prove it.

However, their trials and tribulations haven't cost them their sense of humour. In fact, their encounters with stolen scripts, cancelled television shows and abandoned movie deals inspired their creativity—a novelty item and a board game for anyone curious about show business.

"The big-time producers kit" comes with a script, a contract with a major studio, a VIP studio parking pass, two plastic Oscars and an irreverent guide to movie lingo.

"Starstruck" the version, comes with real popcorn in a film canister. Both items are available in specialty shops.

The game began as an industry survival manual the couple put together to entertain friends.

"We've seen it all," said Smith, 41, "and every topic we raised as a possible chapter heading for the manual brought to mind some really hilarious experience we'd had trying to establish ourselves in the business."

O'Rourke, 47, who speaks quietly and thoughtfully in a slight southern accent, has directed more than 100 instructional films for physicians and others in the medical community, on surgical techniques and other topics.

He also directed several television series, includ-

ing ABC's "That's Incredible," and the 1980 and 1984 winter Olympics for ABC sports.

But feature films have eluded him. The writer-producer-director thought he finally hit in 1985 when he was hired to direct a \$3.5 million film set in Ireland. But the financial backers pulled out at the last minute.

The script was wonderful, but it just never materialized. It was a real heartbreaker," he said.

Smith's first experience in television ended with the cancellation of the show "On Trial" in 1988. She worked as a production secretary on the science fiction spoof "Amazon Women on The Moon," but found the star-studded film disappointing.

"It was disheartening to work on a big-budget film and have it turn into garbage," she said.

The couple, together for eight years, have learned another hard lesson about people. O'Rourke said he gave two of his most promising scripts to self-described producers who produced nothing but hot air.

"Eight million people in Beverly Hills call themselves producers and don't know what the word means," he said.

Between jobs rewriting scripts, selling scripts and optioned films, O'Rourke said the entertainment industry has provided a very good living at times, but he does stress that the work is sporadic.

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Valentine's Day

Women are more romantic, men demanding

By Andra Varin

BOSTON, (UPI): On Valentine's Day, oughts turn to the perfect gift, but while men dream of chocolates and roses, men are more likely to fantasize about slinky lingerie, a researcher says.

Boston University researcher Kathleen White says the sexes have different expectations when it comes to romance and relationships, and those differences get even greater as years go by.

Kathleen White, acting chairwoman of the university's psychology department, began interviewing 300 young adults, both married and single, 10 years ago. She is now following up on her subjects and says the disparity in news on romance becomes even greater with age.

The main complaint of women in their 20s is

that their boyfriends or husbands rarely say the words "I love you," White said.

"In their 20s, it was certainly true that the women wanted men to say 'I love you' more directly," White said. "I've had a number of men say to me, 'why do I have to say it? I come home every day, I help around the house.' Some would even say 'I think if you say I love you, too, often it cheapens it.'

While both men and women in their 20s place equal importance on sex, women frequently complain that their partners only become physically affectionate as a prelude to sex — or in an effort to resolve an argument.

"Very often women would like more physical expression of affection from them, specifically at a time when they are not fighting," White said. "(Women say) 'I don't want to kiss and make up until we've got it settled.'"

"The gap grows wider as the couples age."

Andrea Varin

"In their 20s, I did not see evidence that men are more interested in sex than women," White said. "In their 30s, at least with married couples, the stereotypes are coming true."

Couples in their 30s are living lives that are much busier and more stressful than they were in their 20s. Both husbands and wives say they just don't have time to relax together. They don't feel appreciated. On one level, they know their partner loves them, but on another hand they wish their partner would show it more. Their job comes first, or the children come first.

Gesture

In such cases, each partner wants the other to make an extra effort to reaffirm their love, but ideas of what that effort should involve vary widely, White said. Women look for a gesture that symbolizes romance, while men want more frequent and exciting sex.

"The women, even the ones who don't have children, they're still working full time. It (sex) has become more routine. Both husbands and wives say they'd like more romance, but if anyone says they want more sex, it's the husband."

And while men may say they want more romance, they equate the term with sex or believe romance should lead to the bedroom. White said.

"Women are talking about more emotional closeness. Men are talking about physical closeness. Women need talking and cuddling; men (want) physical affection, including sex," she said, adding that married women in their 30s often feel too tired for sex.

"Even if their husbands have helped (with household tasks), they don't seem to have the energy."

She said women anxious to revive the

romance in their lives will think wistfully of a candlelit dinner.

"The husbands, what they want to do is have the wife buy something from Frederick's of Hollywood and come prancing in."

The good news, White says, is that compromises are easy to achieve — with a little communication. Couples who take the time to ask each other about their needs are happier, she said.

"They take time just to talk about how they're doing, what they're missing. They're responsive ... they really listen to each other."

The couple, White said, will occasionally surprise each other with small gifts. For example, the husband might do dishes, if this is a task the wife traditionally performs, or the wife may allow the husband some time to himself before she asks him to help with the child-care.



People

She walks all over them

THE street-wise stars of television's *The Bill* know exactly how to unwind after a hard day on the beat. They let someone walk all over them.

The actors ease away the aches and strains of police work with help from the ancient art of Thai massage... a technique in which the masseuse stands on your back.

Mark Wingett, who plays the keen young D.C. Carver, is a devotee of the method since spending a four-week holiday in Thailand with his 27-year-old fiancee Sharon Martin.

He said: "I was with Sharon when this Thai woman came up to us and asked if I wanted a massage. I was a bit dubious at first. But after I'd agreed to a session, I felt really wonderful."

"Out there, everybody does it. To them, this type of massage is nothing special. After the first time, I had it done every morning for the rest of the holiday. By the time I got home I felt great."

Now Sharon, a beautician, has opened her

own saloon, called The Body and Beauty Parlour, in Islington, North London. It comes complete with resident Thai masseuse, tiny 4 ft. 10 ins. Lek Lakman.

Sharon, who stands a statuesque 5 ft. 10 ins tall, said: "There are limits to the size a masseuse can be if she's going to walk along your back. Lek weighs about six stone, which is ideal. Now, if I tried standing on you, it might not feel so comfortable!"

When I called in on Sharon's parlour, Lek was practicing her art on members of *The Bill* cast.

Mark stripped to the waist to sample her nimble foot-work. Grinning manfully as she tip-toed around his shoulder-blades, he said: "Oooh! It feels lovely, but I wouldn't recommend it on top of a full stomach."

Among the onlookers were Vicki Gee-Dare, who plays the caring W.P.C. Ford, and glamorous Nula Cornwell, W.P.C. Martella in the series. They couldn't be persuaded to expose themselves to a full massage.



The long arm of the law is tested for strength by Lek and Nula Conwell.

Cancer care

Get well with the blessing of stars

AND now a galaxy of celebrities, as glittering as the cast of one of his epic movies, is backing amazing new treatment for the disease which killed screen idol Wayne ten years ago.

Joan Collins, Linda Evans, Burt Lancaster and stars of the Emmy-winning TV series *L.A. Law* are just a few of the tinsel town celebrities who have helped raise funds for the pioneering John Wayne Cancer Clinic in Los Angeles.

Wayne's own family, as well as the "family" of TV soap *Dynasty*, have given millions of dollars to the appeal to save the dying.

The Division of Surgical Oncology at the UCLA School of Medicine was named after the John Wayne Clinic after Duke, as he was known, was treated there for the cancer which ended his life on June 11, 1979. Wayne became fond of the division and the doctors who worked in it and after his death his son Michael led the drive to rename it in his father's honour.

Today, admiration for the tough-tough man who appeared in more films than any other actor is so great that after one half-

hour television programme on the cancer clinic, 5,000 people jammed the switchboard clamouring to volunteer for its life-saving work.

Every day brings new hope for the thousands of cancer victims who attend the clinic. Scientists there, who are working against the clock to solve the deadly riddles set by the disease, have made some astonishing breakthroughs. And they know they have the full support of their parents — whose names read like Hollywood Who's Who.

Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker of *L.A. Law* won an award for their help. It was presented by another of the star's sons, Patrick Wayne. Other benefactors include Dallas star Larry Hagman, film idol Charles Bronson, Bob Hope and Mrs Danny Kaye.

Research

Every researcher agrees that the most effective way to fight cancer is to detect it early — when it is usually at a curable stage. And the John Wayne Clinic has devised an "antigen early detection test" which is being hailed as a major leap forward.

ward in eliminating the disease. It involves the testing of a substance called antigen.

Although antigens have in the past been almost impossible to test, today the John Wayne Clinic has perfected a complex, eight-hour procedure to do so.

The centre believes that if the test lives up to its promise so far, the cancer death rate all over the world can drop dramatically.

Dr Donald Morton, whose friendship with John Wayne during the actor's final battle with cancer inspired the drive to rename the clinic, has carried out intensive research in the exciting new field of cancer immunology.

The top doctor is convinced that cancer patients can develop immunity against the disease. He has pioneered a treatment which uses a tubercular vaccine to stimulate the body's own immune system to produce anti-bodies to fight and destroy cancerous cells.

Dr Morton has also had success in a radical new technique which involves

making a culture from cells drawn from a patient's own tumour.

Cells from that culture are then extracted, weakened with radiation, and re-injected into the patient. After this, they act as a spur, encouraging the body to produce anti-hodines.

This year, more than 1,400 new cancer patients will be referred to the clinic for consultation from hospitals all over the world. The clinic also has a powerful volunteer organisation which has nearly as vital a part to play in its successful running as the dedicated doctors.

Donna Rosen, president of the John Wayne Cancer Clinic Auxiliary, told me: "The work is truly its own reward. The auxiliary is so dedicated to the clinic, there is such a feeling of warmth and love, that once people become members, it seems like they can't do enough."

Members of the auxiliary, which was brought together by two women who had successfully treated for breast cancer, include fashion designers, high-powered career women, writers, artists and top executives.

Men do not like to compete under those circumstances.

"Anyway, it looks better on the screen to have two women and one man. A man involved intimately with two women is not as bashfully criticised as the woman with two lovers. I do not say that is right or fair, but it is the case."

Married for 23 years to his Polish wife, Skolimowski said he has had no such personal experiences, but he thinks it is possible for women, as well as men, to be romantically in love with two persons at the same time.

"There is hardly a more fascinating subject in the human experience than a love triangle," he said.

"For some reason, it is more intriguing when it involves two women and one man, as opposed to two men and a single woman. Usually in that case one of the men will abandon the situation quickly."

Skolimowski is convinced passionate

love stories for the screen must be told in period films. He says there is very little romance today, with sex having replaced romantic love.

"The pace of period films is different," he explained. "So are the attitudes and feelings of the lovers. The settings, too, are softer and more romantic."

"I've made an elegant movie with a smooth pace. There is a feeling for the filmgoers that they are watching something that is really happening before their eyes. I did not use technical tricks."

"This is the first love story I have directed, and I am so happy with the result, I may become a specialist."

Strangely, Skolimowski believes Americans appreciate love stories more than Europeans, perhaps because Europeans are not so naive about affairs of the heart. He says they are more jaded, adding, "They've seen it all."



Patrick Wayne presents Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry of *L.A. Law* with a special award for their efforts in the fight against cancer at the Benefactors Party of the John Wayne Clinic.

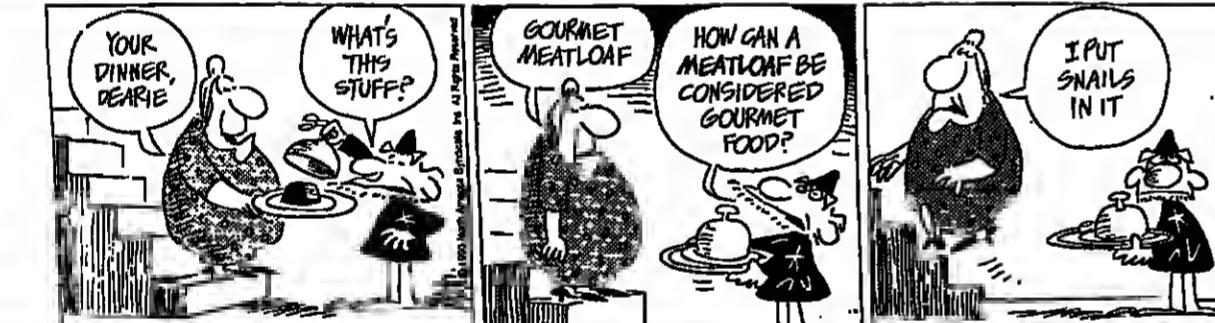
BETTY BOOP



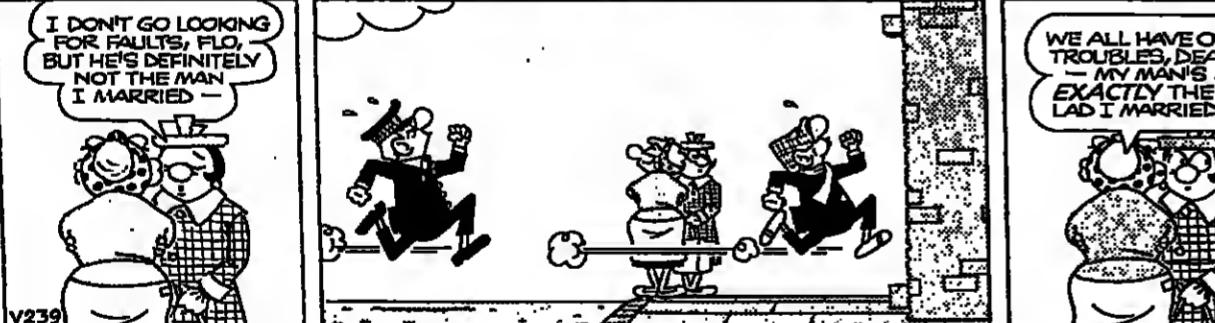
MANGIN THE HORRIBLE



THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



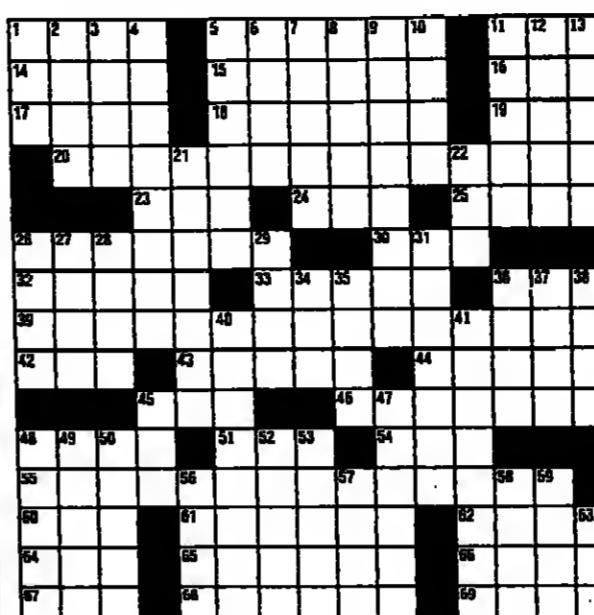
B.C.—By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN—By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Eject
5 Book page size
11 New Deal agcy.
14 Young salmon
15 Roofer, at times
16 Exclamation of discovery
17 Wings
18 Literary ridicule
19 Edge
20 Jean Harlow, e.g.
23 Musical syllable
24 — culpa
25 Remove rind
26 Zero
30 Certain discs, for short
32 Ancient Mexican
33 — Rogers St. Johns
36 Onager
39 Cardinal Newman hymn
42 Charged atom
43 A Lauder
44 Orphan of musicals
45 Tokyo, formerly
46 Treats for kitty
48 Designer Cassini
51 Sound of disapproval
54 Former Chinese leader
55 Stevenson
56 Work unit
61 Sleep-inducer
62 Admit frankly
64 Berander's need
65 African wildcat
66 Floor covering
67 Nav. neighbor
68 Glacial ridges
69 Robert —

DOWN

- 1 Bath, e.g.
2 Feeler
3 Of a period
4 Encircled
5 Legendary Gaelic hero
6 Highland group
7 An O'Neal
8 Many — (often)
9 Out loud
10 City on the Oka
11 Chili con —
12 Reprove
13 Ship of the desert
21 Fooled
22 Wifis of Saturn
26 — Me Tangiers
27 Bread spread
28 Govt. agt.
29 "Look"
30 Wife of Saturn
32 — Me Tangiers
33 — Cab
34 After HST
35 Certain current,
36 Hindu fire god
37 Icebreaker, e.g.
38 Fr. holy women
40 Radioactive farms
41 Invent
42 Breakfast choice
47 Swiss poet and family
48 Obtained from oil
49 Poet Garcia —
50 Canadian mystery writer Howard —
52 Evade work
53 Rascal
56 "Carmen" role
57 Hadilinar
58 Wicked
59 Geble's Butler, a.g.
60 Snare
61 Seesaw
62 — SALE
63 Willie Winke

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

CAROB	SLAB	JAMB	B
ARENA	TODD	URAL	T
TONES	ACER	MIST	I
CIME	STRIPED	BASS	S
HAWAII	TAIL		A
TINKERED	SEESAW		N
ADE	TAXI	KOI	E
LEAF	CAB	CAVALIER	R
CARAFFE	RENT	TWIST	D
BASSET	ASSESS		O
THUNDON	BASSET		P
LEA	RED		L
ANTI	RAINY		U
TOAD	AMIS	KASE	I
INGE	PEER	MASER	V

ZODIAC SIGNS



Aries
March 21 - April 19

You will experience something of a disappointment but will know how to cope with it. Try to show a little more goodwill towards others. Make sure you keep within limits of speed and safety. Be less despondent.



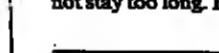
Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You should have a little more faith in yourself but do not become self-satisfied. You are rather liable to miscalculate. Instead of being angry about it, just try again. Be true to yourself.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will have a tiring day and should try to have an early night. Make necessary changes but no change merely for the sake of change. Accepting invitation but do not stay too long. Be frank.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will be in good mood but must avoid too much exuberance. You should do your best to avoid making mistakes, better than correcting them. If you expect results to fall into your lap you will be disappointed. Be tactful.



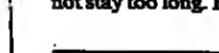
Leo
July 21 - Aug. 20

You will be tempted to gamble for what appear to be good odds. Don't, there are some hidden risks that alter the odds entirely. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 45. Make sure you do not leave any doors or windows unlocked. Be sociable.



Virgo
Aug. 22 - Sept. 21

Something you hoped would happen will not, but the result is not as bad as you had feared it might be. You should not trust your instincts and intuitions, instead be guided by reason.



Libra
Sept. 22 - Oct. 21

You should not keep others waiting. Make sure that you keep a promise you have made even if there are difficulties in the way of so doing. Do not rely on others doing just what you would like them to do. Be reasonable.



Scorpio
Oct. 22 - Nov. 21

You should show a little more goodwill towards others. Always trying to get your own back — if you do you will not succeed and aggravation will result. Take the best care of your health. Be sincere.



Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Do not keep anyone waiting for something you had promised to do if you have to drive too. If you are feeling tired do not stay up too late. Be tolerant.



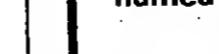
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You will have some good ideas but first you should discuss them with your partner. Avoid spending more than you can readily afford. Take better care of your health, particularly watch your weight. Be sincere.



Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You will have a lot to do and there just is not time to do everything you wish. So do what is most important and what you have promised to do. Avoid saying anything you know well you should say. Be respectful.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

Do not leave a letter unanswered, that would be most discourteous. Try to set a good example to your children. Avoid allowing litter to accumulate either at home or in the garden. Be fair.



"The word on the street is that a guy named Hannibal is looking for a bunch of elephant trainers."



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

THE KING IS DEAD

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

- ♦ 7 2
- ♥ Q 8 2
- ♦ K 7 3
- ♠ K J 10 5

WEST

- ♣ Q 10 8 5 3
- ♦ A J 9 4
- ♥ 6 5 3
- ♦ J 10 9 2
- ♦ A Q 8 5
- ♣ 6 4 3
- ♦ 7 2

EAST

- ♦ K 6
- ♥ A 10 9 7 4
- ♦ 6 4
- ♦ A Q 9 8

SOUTH

- ♦ K 6
- ♥ A 10 9 7 4
- ♦ 6 4
- ♦ A Q 9 8

The bidding:

East South West North

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Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass

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ARAB TIMES Classifieds

FOR RENT

Villas, half villas, flats, complete buildings, offices in all areas in Kuwait with or without swimming pool.

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Tel: 4748877
Al Mawasim Trdg.

FOR RENT

Melati Villa: 4 bedrooms, 2 saloons, mulhoo garden 10/700
Makhtesh Villa: 3 bedrooms, 2 saloons, mulhoo garden 10/650
Jebaliya Villa: 3 bedrooms, large saloon, maid room on garden 10/650
Salmiya: Flat 2 bedrooms, maid room, 2 bathrooms 10/280
Also several villas and half villas are available in different areas.
Tel. Mohammed Shihada 2621391/2621390

VILLA FOR RENT

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Dittmar surprises Jansher, Jahangir brushes aside MacLean

TORONTO, Feb 9, (Reuter): Chris Dittmar of Australia pulled off a major upset when he beat world champion and world number one Jansher Khan of Pakistan in straight games at the Toronto Invitational squash tournament yesterday.

Dittmar, 25, ranked third in the world, scored a 17-16 15-13 15-6 round-robin win

over Jansher, who escaped a defeat to the Australian in the World Open last October.

In other matches, Jahangir Khan of Pakistan beat Briton Mark MacLean 15-15 12-15-5 and Adrian Davies of Britain beat Canadian Sabir Butt 15-10 15-9 12-15 2-15 15-4.

Both Jansher and Dittmar had looked

razor sharp this week and the Group B round-robin match was eagerly anticipated.

Dittmar started off by constantly stretching Jansher, but the young Pakistani, known as 'Rubber Man,' showed his supreme manoeuvrability and rarely more than two points separated them in the first game.

They swapped the lead until 14-all when

Dittmar called for a three point tie-break. Jansher reached game point first but hit the ball out of court. Dittmar then seized his chance and won the opener 17-16.

Dittmar came out slowly for the second game and trailed 1-6 but found his stride and pulled level at 11-11. At this point Jansher seemed to lose heart and Dittmar won it 15-

13.

The third game was virtually a walkover for Dittmar, who won it 15-6 inside 11 minutes.

"That first game was vital for me," said Dittmar. "My theory is that Jansher has had too many hard matches and it is beginning to show. If he'd won that first game, he

would have been a different player. But when he's two games down, it's too much effort to come back."

When the group matches are over it is almost certain that Jansher Khan and Jahangir Khan will meet in the semifinals, while Dittmar will have an easier time against Ross Norman of New Zealand.

Wales name squad for rugby game

CARDIFF, Feb 9, (Reuter): Wales have made three changes, all in the pack, for their clash against high-flying England in the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship on February 17.

The Welsh visit Twickenham looking for their fifth straight win over England with veteran Laurence Delaney at prop in place of David Young, who transferred to Rugby League last week.

Delaney, 35, last played for Wales when they beat England at Cardiff Arms Park last season, robbing the English of the Five Nations title.

Gareth Llewellyn comes into the second row as replacement for Kevin Mosley, sent off during Wales' 29-19 defeat by France in Cardiff in their opening match on January 20 and banned until August 31. Llewellyn, 20, wins his second cap following his debut against the All Blacks in November.

Richie Collins wins his 12th cap at open side Flanker in place of Gary Jones in his first international since December 1988 when he was in the side beaten at home to Romania.

"We felt we needed to inject a bit more pace into the back row. We had decided to do that anyway for the game against England because of the way they play, and the way we want to play against them," said Wales coach John Ryan.

"We feel we need to be a bit quicker about the field at Twickenham and provide our backs with some quicker support than they have had in previous games."

England, who crushed France 26-7 in Paris on Saturday and lead the Five nations table, are favourites but the Welsh have traditionally been a stumbling block for the English, who have won in only four of their last 27 meetings.

"It's England, so the players will be raising their game. We have picked a side that we feel can beat them," Ryan said.

Team — Paul Thorburn: Mark Titley, Mark Ring, Mike Hall, Arthur Emry: David Evans, Robert Jones (captain): Mark Jones, Richie Collins, Gareth Llewellyn, Andy Allen, Phil Davies, Laurence Delaney, Kevin Phillips, Mike Griffiths.

Sieben returns to swimming

BRISBANE, Feb 9, (Reuter): Former Olympic champion Jo Sieben announced his comeback yesterday, just days after fellow Australian Lisa Curry won four gold medals at the Commonwealth Games to crown a successful return to competitive swimming.

Sieben, 22, caused one of the great test upsets of the 1984 Olympics by beating hot favourite Michael Gross of West Germany in the 200 meters butterfly final in world record time.

The Queenslander's comeback, which will be coupled with Sieben studying for a law degree, is being financed by sponsorship valued at \$75,000 from a real estate company.

Douglas outpoints Tyson on decorum

TOKYO, Feb 9, (Reuter): World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson and challenger James 'Buster' Douglas matched boasts and bluster at a news conference yesterday, although Douglas was the clear winner on Tyson's.

At one point Tyson put earphones on and appeared to be singing along to music while an interpreter spoke in Japanese, and at another he dismissed a question with a harsh obscenity.

Douglas' rhetoric was less earthy, and when not answering questions he sat quickly in a suit and tie. Tyson wore a 'Tyson team' T-shirt and jeans.

But two days ahead of a title fight that has so far drawn only modest interest, Douglas' optimistic claims equalled Tyson's.

"I'm in great shape and there's no way I can lose," Tyson said.

"I'm also in great shape and I feel tremendous," said Douglas.

Both were vague when it came to tactics and timing. Tyson said: "I'm not a predictor of rounds. I



Golden State's Sarunas Marciulionis (right) snatches a rebound in a NBA game on Wednesday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Pacers outplay Spurs

Nuggets thrash Bulls

DENVER, Feb 9, (AP): The Denver Nuggets held National Basketball Association (NBA) scoring leader Michael Jordan to a season-low 15 points and sent Chicago to its fourth straight loss, 123-98 last night.

Jordan, averaging 33.2 points per game, was defended by Fat Lever and Todd Lightfoot and did not reach double figures until seven minutes remained in the game. Jordan had only one basket in the second half and shot just 5-for-18 from the field.

Alex English scored 24 points, Lever had 18 and Walter Davis 17 for Denver. Horace Grant had 16 points and Craig Hodges 15 for the Bulls, who have struggled to their Western Conference road trip.

Pacers 105, Spurs 100

Chuck Person scored 32 and the Indiana Pacers snapped San Antonio's 20-game home winning streak, beating the Spurs 105-100.

Reggie Miller had 28 points as the Pacers beat San Antonio for the eighth straight time.

David Robinson score 21 points for the Spurs, who came in with the League's best home record of 21-1.

Mavericks 90, Timberwolves 77

Ronald Blackman scored 21 points and the Dallas Mavericks pulled away in the second half and beat the Minnesota Timber-

wolves 90-77 for their ninth victory in 11 games.

Minnesota, 2-20 on the road, led the entire first quarter and was ahead midway through the third period. But Sam Perkins, Roy Tarpley and Brad Davis rallied the Mavericks.

Tooy Campbell and Todd Murphy led Minnesota with 17 points apiece.

Pistons 104, Bucks 101

Ishia Thomas scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter as the Detroit Pistons beat the Milwaukee Bucks 104-101 for their ninth straight victory.

Thomas made two free throws with nine seconds left to give the Pistons their final margin of victory.

Milwaukee had a chance to tie the game with 10 seconds left, but Jack Sikma, a 90 per cent free throw shooter, missed his first from the line after he'd made in steal. Sikma made the second to make it 102-101 before Thomas' two free throws. Paul Pressey then missed on a 3-pointer as time ran down.

Results

Utah	94	Charlotte	74
Cleveland	106	Miami	82
New York	122	Golden State	118
Chicago	104	Philadelphia	103
L.A. Clippers	105	Washington	103
Dallas	90	Minnesota	77
Atlanta	110	Houston	102
Detroit	104	Milwaukee	101
Indiana	103	San Antonio	100
Denver	123	Chicago	98

Championship on 18 April.



Figure skating

Kumi Yamaguchi is lifted into the air by her pairs partner Rudi Galindo as the defending champions in the event look to the ice to skate in the original programme pairs competition at the US Figure Skating Championships in Salt Lake City on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Backley misses record

MELBOURNE, Australia, Feb 9, (AP): Englishman Steve Backley missed the javelin throw at the NEC international track and field meet at Olympic Park last night, but failed in his attempt to break the world record.

The Commonwealth Games gold medalist threw 85.26 metres (279ft-9ins) to win the event, short of the world record of 87.66 metres (287ft-7ins) held by Czech Jan Zelezny.

Backley and fellow Englishman dominated the event with Hill second with a throw of 83.06 metres (274ft-ins).

Backley said it was the first time he had thrown out of the English season and he had never thrown so consistently before.

"In the future it's got to be a similar sort of recipe for success," he said.

Australian Simon Doyle, fourth at last week's Commonwealth Games meet in Auckland, won in 3 minutes 55.96 seconds, ahead of compatriot Pat Scammell in 3:56.44 and England's Mark Rowland third in 4:02.5.

Abandoned

Australian Debbie Flintoff-King, Seoul Olympic gold medalist in the 400 metres hurdles, won an invitation, 300 metres hurdles in 40.47 seconds and said she had abandoned plans to retire from international track and field.

"I have about six months of and come back competing in December," Flintoff-King said.

She said her final competition would be the world championships in Tokyo next year.

"I couldn't see myself going beyond that," she said.

Flintoff-King finished second behind Sally Gunnell of England in the Commonwealth Games.

"Had I won gold in Auckland it would have been my last run," she said.

New Zealand veteran John Walker, who fell to the 1500-metre final in Auckland, won the 3,000 metres last night.

Walker clocked 7:51.31 to beat compatriot Kerry Rodger, who was timed at 7:52.74.

Patterson wins

BINGHAMTON, New York, Feb 9, (AP): Tracy Patterson, in control of the fight from the opening bell, knocked out George Garcia early in the eighth round last night to win the North American Boxing Federation vacant superbantamweight title.

Patterson, the son of two-time heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson, hit Garcia with a right hook to the head and followed up with a left-right combination to the head that sent Garcia reeling. He staggered momentarily, then dropped down on all fours before referee Art McKinney Jr stopped the fight with 1:55 left in the round.

"It was the one hit that got him," said Patterson, who improved his record to 34-2 with his 24th knockout.

Jabriya, Fahaleel win

THE first match of this week's Holiday Inn Netball League was contested by Jabriya and Salwa & Salmiya (SAS) and saw the return to the game of Chris Hill, after the birth of her daughter, Taline. The game was fast and exciting and Jabriya were winners of every quarter. Jane Harrison, the Jabriya goal shooter, had a fine game.

Salwa and Salmiya team were in action again later in the evening when they fought a fierce battle with Fahaleel. The SAS team were leading until the final quarter of the game, when Fahaleel just pulled ahead, making the final score 26-24. This is Fahaleel's first win in the league. In both games, Vanessa Keane,

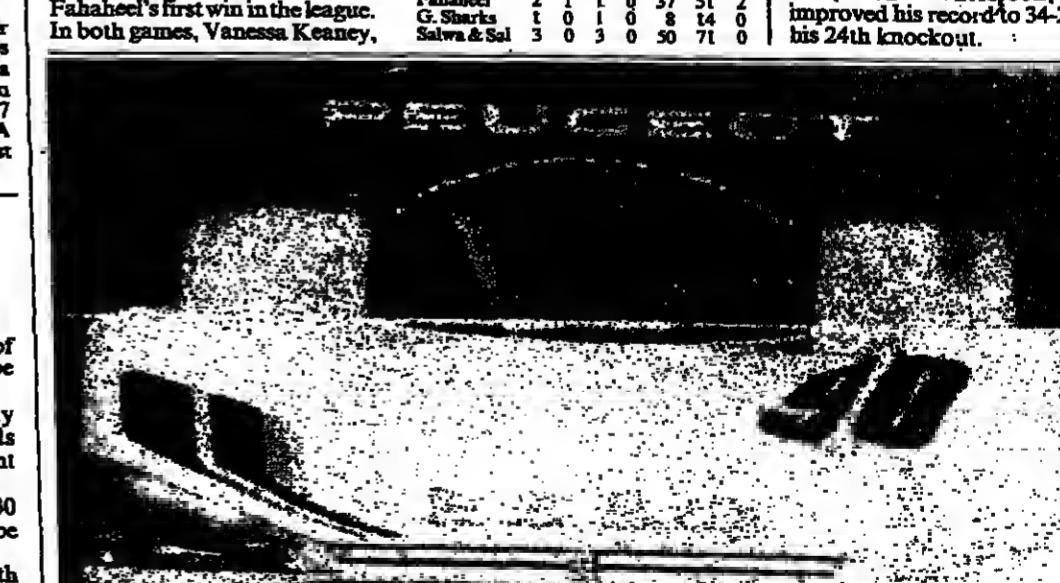
the SAS captain, encouraged her team by her fine display of shooting. It is unfortunate that SAS' fine performances have not yet been rewarded with League points.

The local derby, Gulf Jets vs Gulf Sharks, was a closely contested game, with both defences consistently thwarting the goal attempts of the opposing team. In particular, Sally Cordiner had an outstanding game.

After two weeks the League table is now as follows.

P W L D GF GA Pts

Jabriya	2	2	0	0	51	23	4
Gulf Jets	2	2	0	0	35	22	4
Salwa & Salmiya	2	1	1	0	37	51	2
G. Sharks	2	0	0	0	8	14	0
Salwa & Sal	3	0	3	0	50	71	0



The new Peugeot 905 unveiled on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Peugeot unveils new sportscar

VELIZY, France, Feb 9, (Reuter): French carmakers Peugeot yesterday unveiled the car which they hope will challenge Mercedes and Jaguar next year.

Former French Formula One driver Jean-Pierre Jabouille will test the car which, it is hoped, may make a racing debut later this year.

"We chose to run in sportscar rather than Formula One because it is much better in terms of our

group's image. Next year's championship will be very competitive," said Jean Todt, head of Peugeot's racing department.

International Motor Sports Federation (Fism) president Jean-Marie Balestre said 17 teams were developing engines for the next sportscar championship when, under new rules, engine capacity will be limited to 3.5 litres and turbos will be banned.



Tyson (left) appears to sleep during the conference while sitting next to promoter Don King. (Reuter wirephoto)

just go to win."

"I'll take it any way I can get it," said Douglas.

SPORTS

Lewis to replace Ellcock

CASTRIES, St Lucia, Feb 9, (Reuters): Chris Lewis was called up as a surprise replacement for injured fast bowler Ricky Ellcock on England's cricket tour of West Indies.

The Guyana-born Leicestershire fast bowler, who made his county debut three years ago, received the call while in Kenya with the England team. He is due in Trinidad on Sunday.

Lewis now has a chance to make his debut on his 22nd birthday next Wednesday when England play their opening one-day international against West Indies in Port of Spain.

Glamorgan's Steve Watkin had been the favourite to take over but England tour manager Peter Luis said: "We see Chris as the best strike bowler replacement for Ellcock."

Ellcock, plagued by a chronic back injury, withdrew from the tour on Wednesday after fighting a long battle for fitness since shortly before the tour began two weeks ago.

Lewis himself was out for much of the summer with a circulation problem in his fingers which stopped him bowling but he nonetheless picked up 43 first-class county wickets.

A genuine fast bowler, he is also a useful batsman and has been compared to his former county team-mate and now fellow England international Phillip DeFreitas.

England manager Mickey Stewart said later Lewis had been considered the quickest bowler in the World Youth Cup in Australia two years ago.

"We picked Lewis for his extra bit of pace," he said. "We have three economy bowlers in Angus Fraser, Gladstone Small and Paul DeFreitas and felt we needed someone who has the ability to bowl quick."

(Stewart added: "It is not our policy, however, on this tour to fight fire with fire.")

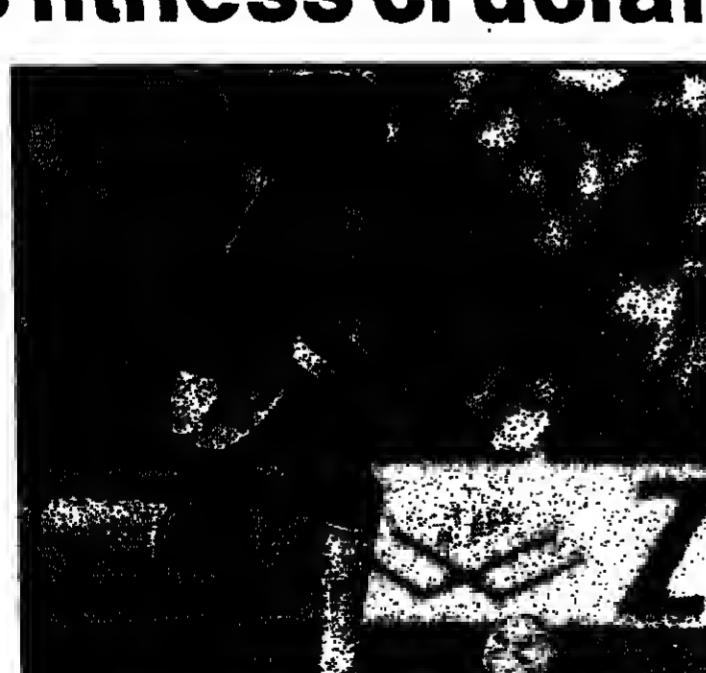
Cup organisers anger Ireland

ROME, Feb 9, (Reuters): World Cup soccer organisers worried about violence from fans have angered Ireland by blocking plans to put their team in a hotel in the same place as opponents England.

Roberto Pappalardo, secretary of the Italia '90 organising committee for the Sardinian venue Cagliari, said the proximity of the hotels in the beach resort of Santa Margherita, the England World Cup headquarters, would pose a security problem.

"The hotels are five minutes apart by car and for better or for worse fans try to reach team hotels. Santa Margherita is a real English zone. Police have forbidden us to let the Irish go there as well," he said today.

Organisers proposed a choice of three other hotels for the two nights Ireland will be in Sardinia for their first round match against England on June 11 but the Irish Football Association (FAI) had rejected all of them, Pappalardo said.

Rain hits India's match

Ruud Gullit: Netherlands' top player

everyone is expecting them to be at least among the last four," he said.

The team's potential has provoked comparisons with the great World Cup sides of the 1970s when they finished runners-up to the hosts in West Germany in 1974 and suffered the same fate in Argentina four years later.

The 1974 team, coached by Rinus Miebelis, captured the public imagination. Featuring stars like Johan Cruyff and Wim van Hanegem, they created a style labelled 'total football'.

"Of course there are a lot of other good teams, but the Dutch have such quality overall that

is faster and tougher. The players are fitter, able to remain competitive throughout a long tournament," he said.

But Thijss Libregts, coach since the European Championships, has been lambasted in the Dutch media for playing too cautiously, with Gullit joining the chorus of disapproval.

Michels, at the helm again when the Dutch won the European Championship, now has a post with the national soccer association. He will be with the squad in Italy, with his influence expected to take some pressure of Libregts.

Preparations for the finals include two tough friendlies — against hosts Italy in Rotterdam next month and away to the Soviet Union in March — plus games with Austria in Vienna and Yugoslavia or Hungary in the fortnight before the competition.

But plans could be hampered as so many players are now with the leading foreign clubs.

In December the Dutch slumped to their first defeat in 18 months when injuries and unavailability forced them to field a second string team in a friendly with Brazil.

Gullit is not an eye-catching player but his tackling and covering are vital to the team while you give Vanenburg the ball and know he'll keep possession," said Jongbloed.

In attack the pairing of Gullit and Van Basten, European Footballer of the Year for the last two seasons, is envied by coaches world-wide.

Weaknesses are not obvious,

Zealand, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The series against Pakistan was poised for an exciting finish after a dramatic drawn second Test in Adelaide but torrential rain washed away any chance of a result in the Sydney Test, preventing play on three days.

Taylor was at the crease for 258 minutes and hit eight fours. He had one life when Ramiz Raja put down a chance at first slip when the New South Welshman was on 26.

Taylor has now passed 50 in 14 of his 25 Test innings since his debut against the West Indies last year. Border, not out for 27, offered good support and hit one massive six, dancing down the pitch and lofting Tauseef Ahmed over long on.

Newcomers Mike Veletta and Tom Moody, brought in to replace the injured pair of David Boon and Geoff Marsh, were the wickets to fall yesterday.

Opener Veletta, playing his eighth Test, was out leg before wicket for nine when he played back defensively to a ball which ducked in sharply from Waqar Younis. Moody was out to a bat-pad catch off Tauseef for 26.

Terry Alderman was voted Man of the Match for his haul of five wickets for 65.

Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram was the star of the series, taking the Man of the Match prize in each of the first two Tests. He captured 11 wickets in

the first Test.

He confirmed his all-rounder status with a spectacular second Test, scoring 52 and 123 and snaring five for 100 in the first innings. Other than the brilliance of Wasim, Pakistan have not had a happy tour.

Abdul Qadir was sent home early on, ostensibly for an injury to the spinning finger of his right hand, but his departure followed criticism by Imran Khan of the spinner's form and attitude.

Vice-captain Javed Miandad has carried a back injury and required a runner in the Adelaide Test.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN First Innings 199 (Imran Khan 82 not out, Javed Miandad 49, T. Alderman five for 85)

AUSTRALIA First Innings

M. Taylor not out 101

M. Veletta lbw b Waqar 9

T. Moody c Aslam b Tauseef 26

A. Border not out 27

Extras (5nb, 1lb, 5nb-4) 13

Total (for two wickets) 176

Fall: 1-82 2-105

Did not bat: D. Jones, S. Waugh, I. Haslett, P. Taylor, M. Hughes, C. Rackemann, T. Alderman.

Bowling: Wasim Akram 10-3-29-0 (3nb), Imran Khan 17-2-32-0 (1nb), Tauseef Ahmed 19-3-82-1, Nadeem Ghous 8-1-20-0, Waqar Younis 9-4-21-1, Ejaz Ahmed 2-0-3-0.

Result — Match drawn.

Australians won the series 1-0.

Australia begin defence of title

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 9, (Reuters): Australia begin the defence of their World Cup hockey title on Tuesday in confident mood after scoring 22 goals in their last four matches.

They have been beaten only once — by West Germany — since finishing a disappointing fourth in the 1988 Olympics and won the only major event since the Seoul Games, the Champions' Trophy in West Berlin last June.

The Australians have gambled to some extent by preferring Stephen Davies to experienced centre forward Mark Hager.

Olympic silver medallist West Germany, so consistent but overdue a major title, have been Australia's problem team for four years and threaten to be the biggest threat to the champions hanging on to their crown.

The loss of key players since they reached the Olympic final has left them vulnerable but in Stefan Blocher and penalty corner striker Carsten Fischer they have two of the finest players in the men's game.

The Germans were third in the Champions' Trophy but finished 1989 by winning a five-nation event in Hamburg which included Australia.

The Netherlands were only seventh at the last World Cup but under coach Hans Jonkman they improved to take the bronze medal in Seoul, finished second in the 1989 Champions' Trophy, and first in the Intercontinental Cup, the World Cup qualifier.

Like the West Germans, they have a powerful penalty corner striker in Floris Bovender.

Pakistan, three times former winners, have developed an exciting young side who showed their mettle recently by winning the Asian Cup.

Playing in front of their own fervent supporters and with no acclimatisation problems, they are seen as potential medalists.

England's recent form has been unimpressive but with seven members of Britain's Olympic gold medal winning team in their ranks they are bound to be a threat.

Much will depend on the sharpness of prolific scorer Sean Kerly.

The 12 teams in the tournament, which runs from February 12 to 23, have been divided into two groups with the first two in each qualifying for the semifinals.

The pools are:

Group A — Argentina, Australia, France, India, Netherlands, Soviet Union.

Group B — Canada, England, Ireland, Spain, Pakistan, West Germany.

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2. Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?
3. Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

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Graf injures hand in skiing accident

HEIDELBERG, West Germany, Feb 9. (Reuter): World number one Steffi Graf could be out of tennis for up to two months after injuring her playing hand in a skiing accident.

The 20-year-old West German broke the bone of her right thumb when she fell while cross country skiing in the Swiss ski resort of

St Moritz, her press spokesman said yesterday.

A medical examination at a West German hospital yesterday ruled out earlier reports that Graf had torn ligaments in her right wrist in Wednesday's fall.

Doctors at a Heidelberg clinic were to

examine Graf again today and decide whether to operate on the hand. Graf has already told the organisers of two tournaments in Florida next month, at Boca Raton and Key Biscayne, about the injury but has not withdrawn from those events.

■ Graf, who last month won the Australian

Open singles tennis title for the third year in a row, was named Player of the Month for January on Wednesday by the Women's World Tour.

Graf, the top-ranked women's player, narrowly defeated Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States.

Grabb edges Rostagno

Srejber stuns Krickstein

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 9. (Reuter): Fifth-seeded Jim Grabb advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$225,000 San Francisco tennis championships yesterday with a three-set victory over a former college teammate.

Grabb defeated fellow-American Derrick Rostagno, with whom he played at nearby Stanford University, 6-2 6-7 6-4.

In other second-round action, seventh-seeded American Richey Reneberg made quick work of unseeded compatriot Chris Garner 6-1 6-3. Reneberg, ranked 24th, outclassed Garner, a qualifier rated 210th, using groundstrokes and strong returns to score the 60-minute victory.

Grabb served almost perfectly in the early going against Rostagno, dropping just six points against serve until the second-set tiebreaker.

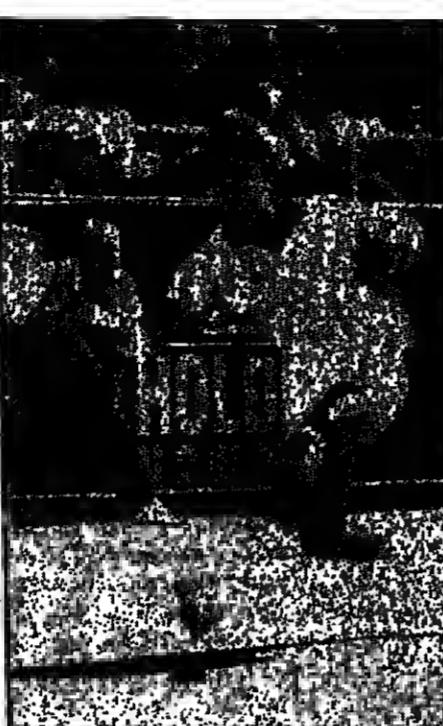
But nerves played a part in undoing the fifth seed's confidence as Rostagno used accurate passing shots to break Grabb and win the tiebreaker set 7-4 with a forehand crosscourt return.

Grabb faced two break points in the third game of the third set, but fought them off with big first serves. After that, the serve-volleying Grabb dominated again with his crisp delivery, losing just one more point on serve and breaking his opponent for the match when Rostagno double-faulted twice.

■ Third-seeded Aaron Krickstein and seventh-seeded Horst Skoff were ousted from the Milan Indoor Tennis Tournament following second-round upsets yesterday.

Krickstein, ranking seventh in the world, lost in straight sets, 6-2 6-3, to unseeded Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia.

The 22-year-old American explained after the match: "Srejber broke me twice at the



Krickstein: knocked out

beginning of both sets and it was impossible to come back on a guy who serves as well as he does."

Krickstein added that his next tournament of the ATP Tour will be Toronto and Philadelphia.

In other second-round action unseeded Americans Pete Sampras and Jim Courier

scored convincing wins in straight sets while Swiss Jakob Hlasek, John McEnroe doubles teammate, took nearly two hours to down Jeremy Bates of Britain 6-3 3-6 6-3.

Sampras, 19, from Rancho Palos Verdes, California, won a second-set tie-breaker 7-4 on his way to a 6-1, 7-6 victory against West German qualifier Markus Zieck.

■ The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) will have to forfeit \$125,000 unless it can convince American Andre Agassi to take part in next week's Brussels tournament, its organiser said yesterday.

Under its own rules, ATP is obliged to pay

the sum to the organisers if it cannot guarantee a minimum of two top 10 players in championship series tournaments.

But with Sweden's Stefan Edberg out through injury, the only top 10 player left is Boris Becker.

Tournament organiser Adrien Vanden Eede said ATP was offering Agassi, ranked eighth in the world and currently playing in San Francisco, "a big sum of money," to play in Brussels. Negotiations were still going on.

■ John McEnroe has appealed against fines totalling \$6,500 imposed for offences at last month's Australian Open from which he was disqualified, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said on Wednesday.

The 30-year-old American, thrown out for swearing at an official during his fourth round match against Sweden's Mikael Pernfors, is in danger of missing one of the other three Grand Slam tournaments this year because of his bad behaviour.

Any player fined a total of \$7,500 at ITF events during a season is automatically barred from the next Grand Slam tournament.



Kuwait triumph

Kuwait's national swimming team returned home after winning an international swim meet in Tehran earlier this week. Seven countries including China, India and Kenya took part in the event. (Photo by Javed Khan)

Al Thani 4th fastest

DHAKA, Feb 9: Dubai Victory, the Cessna 310 sponsored by Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, finally got its challenge underway in the Paris-Langkawi-Paris International Air Race, finishing fourth fastest on the second leg of the 25,000 km race.

Despite suffering a mechanical problem with one of its engines, the light aircraft piloted by Sheikh Hamad Ali Jabor Al Thani arrived safely in Dhaka at the end of the 11 hour, 12 minute flight from Bahrain.

Of the eight remaining piston-engined aircraft quickest over the leg was the Piper Aerostar, Falcon of Jordan, piloted by Eric Ledger. Second was Patrick Saillie of Belgium in Azurex, followed by another Cessna 310, the French aircraft Manpower, flown by Delio Iglesias.

After two legs, Falcon of Jordan is the overall leader of the section for the piston-engined aircraft with Manpower second and Azurex third. In the class of turboprops, Pelangi 90 leads the way ahead of Hors Ligne and Pilatus-Breitling.

Jim Gilchrist, the British journalist on board Dubai Victory,

15,000 to train for opening

KUWAIT, Feb 9, (Kuna): About 15,000 students will take part in the inauguration ceremony of the tenth Arab Cup Football Cup tournament, which is due here on February 20, as announced at the Education Ministry said today.

"We are four fastest in our group so we beat three of the turbo-charged planes and the Piper Twin Commande," said captain Hamad. "Our position is good since we flew very low and did not get the benefit of the tail winds. Our times will improve on the return from Delhi."

"This was Dubai Victory's best flight so far as the good weather helped us push along at more than 200 knots. After only four hours sleep following our late arrival in Bahrain, we were glad to have made up a bit of time on this leg."

"On the way to Dhaka we followed a route which took us past the UAE, Iran and Pakistan before landing at Ahmedabad."

"After a 10-minute stay for refuelling and the necessary paperwork, we raced on through the night and landed in Bangladesh, tired but delighted to have arrived safely."

Denmark rout UAE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Feb 9, (Reuter): Denmark, who failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals, hammered Italy-bound United Arab Emirates (UAE) 5-0 in their second soccer friendly yesterday.

Denmark, missing their foreign-based stars, took full advantages as the UAE rested several members of their first team and romped to 4-0 half-time lead.

Denmark coasted through the second half, but UAE goalkeeper Adel Annas made several outstanding saves.

Their first meeting on Monday was a 1-1 draw.

The goal avalanche began in the second minute when the UAE's most experienced defender, Mubarak Ghaneem, mis-hit a back-pass to Adel Lars Jakobsen with a crashing right foot shot.

Henrik Larsen made it 2-0 with a corner in the 16th minute and Jacob Svengard scored the game's best goal in the 36th minute with a 30-metre drive.

Defender Henrik Risom added the fourth three minutes from the interval from close range and second-half substitute Jes Hogh, making his international debut, tapped in the fifth after 77 minutes.

■ Sepp Piontek said yesterday he had been offered several jobs for when he stands down as Denmark's soccer coach in June but he denied he had been made a lucrative offer by the Saudi Arabian national team. "My wife has informed me by telephone about that (Danish) newspaper report. But it is not true. I haven't received any offer from Saudi Arabia," he told reporters in Abu Dhabi.

Colombia to play in Cup

ROME, Feb 9, (Reuter): Colombia will take part in this year's World Cup soccer finals in Italy despite a drugs-linked death threat against their coach, the World Cup organisers said yesterday.

Organisers Italia 90 said Colombian Soccer Federation president Leon Leonidas Tamayo met Italia 90 director general Luca di Montezemolo to assure him of the presence of Colombia at the World Cup with its best team.

The meeting followed a reported threat, from an anti-drugs group in Colombia, to kill coach Francisco Maturana unless the federation banned from the national team players from clubs alleged to be linked with drug money.

Milan come under fire from media

ROME, Feb 9, (Reuter): European and world club champions AC Milan go into their soccer clash of the giants against Italian League leaders Napoli on Sunday under an unaccustomed cloud of press criticism.

Milan incurred the wrath of the media yesterday after drawing 0-0 at home to bottom club Verona in a surprising result that braked their challenge to Diego Maradona's Napoli.

The result could not have come at a worse time for Milan whose hopes of repeating Napoli at the top in the match billed as decisive by Maradona have now been cast into doubt.

"Milan turn to stone," the front page headline in Italy's Gazzetta Dello Sport newspaper said.

"For the entire 90 minutes, Milan never once gave the impression of having their usual, powerful creative vision," said Corriere Dello Sport.

It branded the attack laboured and confused and said only winger Roberto Donadoni had distinguished himself.

"Our legs were on the field but we left our heads behind," Milan captain and libero Franco Baresi admitted.

Manager Arrigo Sacchi, who had warned his team against complacency after a run of seven League wins, was philosophical.

"Milan did not play well and lost a point. Sooner or later it had to happen. You can't always win."

they are beaten at 18th-place Millwall.

Manager Alex Ferguson has virtually an entire team unfit or unavailable as United attempt to end their worst run of First Division results for 18 years.

Ferguson awaits a late fitness test on Paul Ince's ankle and has defenders Steve Bruce, Mal Donaghy, Lee Sharpe, Billy Garton and Denoil Graham all missing through suspension or injury. He is also without long-term injury victims Bryan Robson, Neil Webb, Colin Gibson, Gary Walsh and Tony Gill.

Ruled

Millwall have midfielders Terry Hurlock and Gary Waddock and defender Keith Stevens ruled out through injury. Steve Wood may return to the defence after recovering from a stomach bug.

Chelsea, seventh and sliding, could have captain Peter Nicholas back in action in the London derby against Tottenham. He has missed four matches with a knee injury.

At the other end of the table, Manchester United, 17th, could be pulled into the bottom three if

Under the auspices of
H.E. the Minister of Public Health

3rd Kuwait Pharmaceutical Sciences Conference

Kuwait International Hotel, Feb 12-14 - Kuwait



Conference Programme

Monday, Feb 12

4.40 - 5.00 pm — Opening Ceremony
5.00 - 6.00 pm — Opening of drugs exhibition and a reception
6.00 - 7.30 pm — Main symposium — Development of Pharmaceutical Services.

8.00 pm — Dinner banquet by Minister of Health at Kuwait Towers Restaurant.

Tuesday, Feb 13

8.00 - 10.00 am — Clinical Pharmacy session
10.00 - 10.15 am — Interval
10.15 am - 12.15 pm — Pharmaceutical Technology session
3.30 - 5.00 pm — Medicinal Plants session

5.00 - 5.15 pm — Interval
5.15 - 6.45 pm — Update lectures on Medical Sciences symposium

9.00 pm — A farewell dinner in honour of participants of Grand Ballroom-Kuwait International Hotel.

Wednesday, Feb 14

5.45 - 7.15 pm — "Pharmacy Education" Symposium
9.00 pm — A special dinner banquet for guests and members of the organising committee at "Grand Ballroom" Regency Palace Hotel.

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